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27 October 1983

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

No. 2844

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ADFAED LOAN FOR OMAN--The Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development has granted a Dh 10.7-million loan to a cement company in the Sultanate of Oman. The loan has an annual interest rate of five per cent to be repaid with seven years after a grace period of two years. Another agreement signed with the Fund yesterday gave the UAE 12.5 per cent of the company's capital equivalent to the amount of loan sanctioned. The two agreements were signed by Mr Nasser Al Noweis, director of the Fund and Mr Ahmed Abdullah Mahfouz, Deputy Chairman of the cement company. The Dh 180 million projects, on completion, is expected to produce 210,000 tons of cement annually. [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 26 Sep 83 p 2]

EGYPTIANS DEPART WEST BANK--Janin--Special correspondent of AL-QUDS--During the past few days the Egyptian authorities in the town of al-'Arish have brought a number of travelers back to Egypt from the West Bank. The Egyptian authorities gave no reasons for this. [Text] [Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Apr 83 p 4]

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ALGERIA

SURVEY LOOKS AT VARIOUS ASPECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH

Words Will Never Hurt Us

Algiers ALGERIE ACTUALITE in French 22-28 Sep 83 pp 5-9

[Article by Feriba Abed]

[Text] The growth in Algeria's population at one of the highest rates in the world is encouraging in many ways, but worrisome in others. Feeding, housing, caring for, and finding jobs for a steadily growing population is no easy chore. Let's not let words scare us: once population growth crosses a certain threshold, it becomes a handicap, a barrier, and a threat. Man is of course both consumer and producer. Then of course there is the quality of his life, the demand for a decent one. No getting around it: we must slow growth. Family planning is vitally needed...

First of all, some statistics: the yearly increase in resident Algerian population was 431,000 from 1967 through 1970; it hit 582,000 in 1979-1981. According to recent (January 1982) figures from Planning and National Development Ministry projections, Algeria's resident population could be growing by 1,071,000 people in the year 2000, by 1,251,000 per year in 2005, and by 1,432,000 per year in 2010... An edifying prospect indeed!

The natural increase, which was below 1 percent until 1925, rose to 2 percent by 1950, held at 3 percent till 1960, and jumped to 3.4 immediately following independence. It is now estimated at 3.06. The gross birth rate, which was 4.93 percent from 1968 to 1972, hit an estimated 4.3 percent. The gross reproduction rate, 3.8 percent in 1960, stood at an estimated 3.35 percent in 1981. As for the overall fertility level it is estimated at 198.2 percent, while the 1982 population numbered 4,214,300.

The gross mortality rate in 1981 was 1.1 percent. Infant mortality was 98.5 per thousand in 1981, accounting for 40 percent of all deaths reported that year.

This means that we have a population estimated in 1982 at about 20 million, of whom 4,214,300 are young people past the age of puberty, 5 million are children under 6 years of age, and 835,000 are infants whose births were recorded in 1981. This means that 54.4 percent of the population is under 18 years old, and that 790,000 of us are less than a year old.

Female fertility per woman runs at 6.9, or an average of seven children per woman. The number of households grew by 80,000 in 1980. It was then on the order of 2,593,000. We would point out that these demographic data and indices were observed over an expanse of Algerian territory covering 2,295,033 square kilometers, of which 2,000,000 square kilometers were desert; as for geographic population distribution, 40 percent of us live in the industrial North, 25 percent in the transitional areas, and some 35 percent in regions where abject poverty is the rule.

Impact of the Statistics

The rapid growth of our population and its extreme youth give rise today to constraints on such disparate domains as health care, education, vocational training, housing, jobs, and food resources. A few examples will suffice to illustrate the impact of this growth.

In the year 2000, health services will be handling 1,260,000 births. If we are to achieve the minimum standards issued by the WHO for health services, we shall have to expand our existing infrastructure to five times its present strength... And at the same time, 9 million small children will be entering school for the first time.

Given the current demographic growth rate, the number of children in elementary school (6 to 15 years of age) would reach 9,040,000 by the year 2000, as compared with the 5,104,000 there today. To meet that demand, we should have to build a school a day, and a college of intermediate studies (CEM) every week.

When it comes to housing, in view of the considerable current shortfall with an occupancy rate of 7 persons per unit and 3.8 persons per room, we should have to build 2,378,000 housing units between 1985 and the year 2000, to get a steady occupancy level of 7 persons per unit.

As for vocational training, our needs for vocational training calculated on the basis of school dropouts alone (elementary and high school) run on the order of 360,000 (the annual mean for the 5-year period).

But when we look at jobs, we find that the working-age resident population (around 3,678,000 in 1980) would, at current growth rates, reach 8,329,000 by the end of the century, making a total increase in the labor pool of 24.2 percent. While we are on the subject of jobs, let's remember that the creation of new jobs, which was

sustained only at the price of huge capital investments, faced with the likelihood of a relative decline in investments, could very well mean a sagging employment curve.

The general report on the 1980-1984 5-year plan makes an emphatic point of this: "Generally speaking, in the productive sectors, the stagnation of worker productivity and its actual decline of recent years in some sectors, pose major problems as to the structural capacity to create new jobs in the future. The critical factors in the dynamics of job creation over the (Plan) period, such as the presence of a broad margin for financial maneuvering, will not come again for a while [and] fears of a freeze on job creation are growing in view of the threat of job cuts that might be generated by such a situation."

On the food front, too, in the face of demographic growth, food requirements, too, are rising sharply. Under present-day conditions of farm production, it will be impossible for Algeria to feed its people itself. "The gap between food production and consumption is widening, and domestic contributions to the nation's food supply are steadily declining, down from 70 percent in 1969, to 50 percent in 1973, and 35 percent in 1977." Total imports are up startlingly: they now amount to 39,064.1 dinar for food alone, and that represents more than 19 percent of total imports in 1981. This serves only to increase our dependency and to expose the nation to arbitrary outside pressure. We must also take cognizance of the fact that "60 percent of all revenues accruing to the state are derived from taxes on oil extraction under the 1980-1984 Plan, and that coverage of development needs on the year 2000 horizon must come essentially from the national economy."

Contemplating all these strategic parameters, and mindful of the current population growth in Algeria, cannot but have considerable impact if we look at the variety and the dimensions of the needs that must be met.

Will our economy be equal to satisfying the social needs of this formidable potential demographic growth? Will Algeria today and Algeria tomorrow be able, realistically, to meet the goals it has set itself in the areas of economic development and social welfare, let alone maintain those achievements once won?

Until quite recently, the approach to the demographic issue focused on the argument that "only improving the level of the masses" socio-cultural and economic level can bring a decline in fertility down to a level compatible with keeping up the pace of ever-swifter advance toward social progress."

At first, Algeria perceived the course of economic and social development as the only possible solutions to the demographic problem, hence this stipulation in the National Charter: "By means of efforts concentrated primarily in the rural areas, designed to raise

living standards for the masses of the people through the work of the Agrarian Revolution, cultural change, special programs, and the long-term expansion of industrialization until it covers our entire country, the presence of a large population is thus gradually transformed into a springboard for economic growth thanks to education, a more structurally motivated social life, and a national push toward progress."

Today, in view of the profound changes in Algerian society that give rise to a considerable increase in social needs, the 4th FLN Congress resolutions emphasized the "need, within the framework of overall health policy, to take practical protective measures aimed at women and children so as to achieve equilibrium in the family in relation to demographic growth consonant with the growth-rate of our economy."

There you have a new determination "to evaluate the real consequences of inadequate attention to demographic problems and to correct that situation by making 1980 to 1990 the social decade oriented toward taking effective charge of the whole corpus of the social needs of the population."

This is why the program unveiled by the cabinet on 2 February last constitutes "a platform for the chosen objectives of birth control." This program, which is part of the implementation of the Central Committee's resolutions relating to adoption of a national birth control program, will gradually be reflected in "a coordinated series of actions oriented in the direction of developing infrastructures for counselling and services, education, information, and making families aware of research findings as to the implications of runaway population growth to society's needs."

To put it another way, the overriding necessity right now is to rein in population growth. The truth is that this cannot be done effectively without implementation of a consistent, firm policy based on a new requirement, involving the participation and mobilization of all the energy we can summon up.

This imperative is spelled out again in economic and social terms in the general report on the 5-year Plan, which says: "action to reduce the national birth-rate has become indispensable if we are to upgrade the effectiveness of our efforts to build out economy and if we have any claim to make a satisfactory and lasting response to the social needs of our population."

Looking at such a sweeping program, we cannot help noting that, if it is indeed to be practically and efficaciously implemented, it would be wise to embark on a meaningful transformation of the social values surrounding large families that are so deeply rooted in the individual mind and in the collective conscience. In this connection, says the report, "all the practical measures adopted, as well as all the messages utilized or sent, must receive close

attention if they are to arouse knowledgeable and voluntary support for the program. The absence of coercion and the respect for free choice on the part of citizens at all levels constitute an essential condition for its success."

The very notion of freedom of choice for citizens vis-à-vis the issue of family planning is a considerable advantage, particularly since it lies in a religious context where people have never had occasion to consider the arrival of children as a problem. It is essentially at this level that work must be done to achieve real understanding and interpretation of the precepts of Islam. Aware of the obfuscation spread by obscurantist and backward minds, the Religious Affairs Ministry plans to mount a program of religious education that will include consciousness-raising around the theme of family upbringing and the need for a healthy and balanced understanding of Islam. All this will be accomplished by describing and explaining the various methods of planning pregnancies. We shall also hear that "a great many Muslim countries are dealing with these same problems today, and are making special efforts in seminars and teachins to explain the positions of Islam." Apparently this is an important area to be cultivated in order to arrive at significant citizen support.

Another area equally important in our view lies outside the contingencies contemplated by the program: that of protection for mother and child. In view of the fertility rate, the [maternal] mortality rate, and the odor of sanctity that surrounds mothers. The figures quoted earlier in this article show the importance that must be attributed to protection for mothers and infants, because "this concerns close to half the population, and because is is addressed to the most vulnerable among us (one of five babies does not live to the age of 5 years) and because it constitutes a priceless investment in the future of our country while making wise preparation for the future of tomorrow's adults." To this end, "demographic statistics play a major role in the state's estimates of the people's health, and enable it to evaluate needs in the realm of health services delivery facilities, as well as in technical equipment and personnel."

We would point out that the measures called for in the Health Ministry program underscore the need for vastly expanded infrastructures, to be accompanied by a concerted effort to structure the organization of this activity in a way that will, without any taint of coercion, build the social support necessary to make the program a success.

Furthermore, it will call for balanced regional distribution so as to blanket the country with a network of family planning centers, to assure regular and uninterrupted deliveries of contraceptives to all treatment and distribution units, to standardize birth control products delivered by public or private agencies, and to provide the whole range of material support requisite to performance of its health education mission.

There you have, in the main, the action that must be taken to combat infant and child mortality, which is a requirement for social progress and an imperative for reducing fertility. To get back to the demographic question, an exceedingly complex issue owing to its many-sidedness and the controversy it evokes (which we have not yet been able to deal with completely) it is worth noting that uncontrolled population growth can quickly eat away the benefits of development. A move like this can succeed only by satisfying a whole range of conditions, such as raising living standards, ending illiteracy, providing adequate schools and an efficient health service infrastructure. In other words, the success of a family planning program could not be better assured than by going hand in hand with improved living conditions and education for all citizens and with stimulation of the nation's economic growth.

Today, faced with the scope of the demographic problem and in compliance with government measures for controlling it, the "Maternity Pavilions" (PMIs) are one of the prime supports for this policy through their direct participation and the impact they have and will have on women and couples.

What the PMIs do is to provide pre-natal and post-natal counselling as well as advice on family planning and regular examination of the child.

At the PMI any day you can see many women waiting their turn for counselling and care. Two energetic midwives make certain that each woman gets all the time she needs for her checkup and answers to any questions she may have.

Pregnant women have regular appointments to monitor the progress of their pregnancies. "That is the very moment when we begin our job of teaching them about contraception and the various methods, and we give simple demonstrations of the way each one works. Once she has been thoroughly informed and understood the idea, we ask the woman to come back for post-natal consultation. That is when, if the woman has been sufficiently instructed, with all aspects of family planning talked over with her, she will come back on her own initiative to ask for a contraceptive."

In other words, the preparatory phase is extremely important in the opinion of our young midwife. This approach to contraception will not work without real dedication and conviction on the part of midwives and nurses. "We care for women in every way: medically (by monitoring and analysis), psychologically, and morally," so as to determine the types of contraceptives to prescribe for them. "It is important, says one, "for us to worry about each woman and to know everything we can about her. The ideal way, of course, would be to have a resident gynecologist to deal with any problems requiring such attention."

On the whole, the women make no secret of their satisfaction. If, after their eighth or ninth pregnancy they decide to seek a contraceptive device, they explain the long delay by saying "we didn't know about these methods until now. Nobody ever told us. Now

we have learned that there is no way so many pregnancies could fail to undermine our health."

Are there other reasons today? Yes, indeed! Living conditions, first of all. "The housing shortage, the high cost of food, education, and health are all factors that lead us to our decision."

Other women, who have only three or four children are opting now for birth control. "For the time being, we don't want any more. We'll see, later on, if we can afford more." Always, all the time, there are meetings and discussions with women and couples of all ages and all social strata, all of them tied in with the explanation campaign in this PMI: the eye-catching posters on the walls are to get every one of the women who drop in for a routine checkup to start thinking about the various methods, and then talk them over later with the midwives.

"It's a kind of consciousness-raising," explains "H," for both the women and their husbands, who usually come in with their wives. As of now, we have an average of 10 percent couples who come in together for contraceptives. Otherwise the women come in alone, and tell us which contraceptive method they have chosen, and they always let us know that the choice was made in complete agreement with with their husbands and with their full consent."

Birth Control in Practice

ALGIERS ACTUALITÉ in French 22-28 Sep 83 p 7

[Article by Farida Abed]

[Text] Clearly, when it comes to dialogue, it's much more simple and easy to get it started when the gathering consists of women only. "There is considerably more constraint and reticence when we have to explain to men." Yet there are considerable numbers of men who come to the center, says "H". "An average of 28 to 30 visits for contraception per day," although their ages do differ. "Some women come in after having their eighth or ninth child, or after the third or fourth, and we have actually had some come in after just one child."

What is the educational level?

Most of them are illiterate. The explanations the midwives give them are reassuring, and they are certainly convincing. "Before there was nothing to help us about this." Today, they talk it over with their husbands, and they make a rational and informed choice. Sometimes we encounter some reluctance or reticence when a daughter-in-law butts in with religious scruples.

These PMIs are here to stay, that's certain. They make a major contribution, and a beneficial one, to the lives of these illiterate, uninformed women. They provide protection for mother and

child, particularly when the health of both is at stake. As for the future, they will certainly be increased in numbers and, more importantly, so will the size of their staffs. In intimate touch, as they are, with the majority of those directly involved, only the PMIs, given broader participation, can get a handle on the demographic problem.

The Challenge

ALGÉRIE ACTUALITÉ in French 22-28 Sep 83 pp 8,9

[Article by K. Yessad]

[Text] Thousands of young people become job-seekers every year. That is one of the facets of demography. We must take care of these youngsters, train them, steer them into the world of work. Caught between these demands, vocational training must provide the numbers of trained workers with the skills our nation's economy needs...

Each year, 360,000 young people are shut out of the school system. That is both a strange and a surprising figure. It begets uncertainty, doubt, and fear. It reveals a truth with which we must deal from now on. It is a hard thing to say, but we dare no longer keep silent about it. And with reason: hundreds of thousands of youngsters are victims of our decaying schools. Year in and year out, 360,000 youngsters are pushed out onto the labor market. The reckoning for the next several years will be no better. For 1984, the prediction is 500,000 dropped. And for the year after next, there will probably be more. For a great many young people, the future has yet to take visible shape. Their situation is painful, but it is not irreversible, provided only that we take the steps that must be taken, including those in the area of training. We cannot wait any longer. We have got to act, and act fast. The streets and idleness await our children. Haven't we always said that idleness is the mother of all vices? The young ask only for a way out of it. At stake is their whole future, their chances for successful life. We must promise all these young people training, give them a trade. They have to experience responsibility, because they will be the men of tomorrow's Algeria. President Shadli Benjedid has always paid particularly close attention to the problems encountered by young people, particularly those who have been expelled from school. In the president's eyes, "the problem facing young people who cannot complete their studies must find a solution by way of vocational training. In this way we shall be shielding our young people from delinquency and at the same time giving our country large numbers of craftsmen and skilled workers." One question, however, is still unanswered. Is our country in any position to provide training for all the young people who say they want it? Of course, the structures are there, but their numbers are far below what the need would indicate: 12 times lower than the

number of applications already received. The training facilities we have are a long way from satisfying everybody. If they are to meet the demand, we shall need three times as many. That means 80 or more training centers to be completed during the 1980-1984 Plan. A year from the deadline, we are a long way from the goal. Several constraints have combined to come to this state of affairs. Among them are failure to meet construction targets, the high cost of raw materials, the lack of construction sites, and the population explosion. Right now our vocational training facilities can provide space for no more than 200,000. This is not nearly enough by comparison with the nation's economic potential. In 1990, for instance, our socio-economic infrastructures will need 1,115,000 skilled workers and 295,000 technicians. That picture calls for making it a permanent rule to seek for any and all solutions that can enable us to meet our obligations in this field. This means that it will be indispensable to call on the training systems run by the government in state industries which have no training facilities but do have a national capacity to train more than 90,000 workers per year. Meanwhile, we find that some of our training facilities are under-used and under-attended. And that in turn means that we are losing training positions. Over at the Vocational Training Ministry they say: "We are increasing our efforts to make an active contribution to concerted implementation of action, in close collaboration with all concerned structures and agencies, regional and national."

More than 20 ministries have training facilities of their own. They have a combined capacity of more than 75,000 trainees. One encouraging step is worth reporting: what the Health Ministry has done. From 11,000 training slots in 1980, it now has 20,000 (as of 1982). Aside from these encouraging results, the givens of the problem call for review in depth. The task before us is to take charge of this potential and wholly available work force which our economy so sorely needs and, at the same time, to meet the legitimate aspirations of the young people themselves.

The situation as it is experienced by young people dropped from the various school systems must be dealt with on an absolute priority basis. And let's make sure that the problems don't take quite a different turn. The situation would then be grave. Apprenticeship is another emergency haven for these youngsters dropped from school.

The Apprentice Act, passed in 1982, found apprentice jobs almost overnight for 32,000 young people. Similarly, both the public and private sectors of the economy have a large part to play in rescuing all these drifting youngsters. Apprenticeship in our time has become an integral part of the national training system. For the current year, 60,000 young people are to be apprenticed, and another 100,000 will be in that status by the end of the 5-year Plan.

The Planning and National Development Ministry estimates the need for the balance of the current Plan at 673,000 slots, 403,000 for skilled manual and office workers, and 186,000 for technicians.

For the category of skilled plant workers and office workers, journeyman graduates from the program will move into some 245,000 jobs (filling 55.6 percent of requirements), and so an annual shortfall of 32,000 can be expected at this level of skills. Requirements for technicians will be somewhat better met (at 67.2 percent), but will leave a year-end shortage of 12,500 technicians. The social requirement for training, calculated solely on the basis of children dropped from the elementary and middle grades is assessed at 360,000 (the yearly mean for the 5-year period).

Again according to the Plans Ministry, current training capacity (72,010 slots to turn out 35,000 trained workers per year) and new capacity to be built (prediction for 1984: 180,323 slots for annual graduating classes of 110,000) will not be sufficient to meet the demand for skilled manpower except to the following degree: skilled plant and office workers: 57 percent; technicians: 28 percent; and expert technicians: 15 percent.

Almost 2 years after it became law, the Apprentice Act is still in the experimental stage. The structures are still in the breaking-in phase. In both public and private sectors, there are still some problems in the area of apprentice job security, fringe benefits, etc. Taken on the whole, the Apprentice Act tends to respond to the economy's need for skilled manpower. To do this, the public and private sectors alike are asked to play the game all the way and to comply with the Apprentice Act in its entirety. Expansion of the apprenticeship system must perforce be made an absolute top priority. For the time being, several targets have been set. The targets are to be met over a period of 3 years. The 1982 target: apprenticing 40,000 young people in 49 skilled crafts and trades; 1983: 60,000 young people apprenticed to learn 100 or so skills; 1984: 85,000 to 100,000 young people in the program. A lot of work is still to be done, though, and there is a long road still to travel.

As for training in business and industry, it must also become one of the basic elements in the national vocational training system. Meanwhile, the continuous growth of skilled manpower requirements including those for master craftsmen, and middle cadres, brought on by the nation's economic development, has led a number of our biggest companies to run their own training and skills enhancement programs to train skilled and highly skilled workers needed in their operations. Further, PL 78-12, dated 5 August 1978, and having to do with the Overall Status of the Worker, clearly stipulates the obligation for active training in all areas incumbent upon the worker, his employer, and the state alike. This law makes it one of its basic principles that it is important from now on to conduct a practical survey examination and to lay all the foundations for broad deployment of training in enterprise.

This is designed to train men capable of doing the best possible job and thereby ensuring their employer of a return on investment. Even so, there are some constraints. They include such matters as the lack of a standard statute of reference for enterprise, the existence of single-source training programs, the lack of student attendance,

the lack of coordination among training units, etc. Training in the enterprise has the great advantage of raising the technical skills level of workers through more complete mastery of the tools they operate. The fact remains, though, that every effort our country makes in the area of vocational training will be thwarted of their aim if we do not cap the present population explosion in Algeria.

With a birth rate of 3.24 percent, Algeria's population will be growing by 1,071,000 souls a year by the year 2000, by 1.250,000 in 2005, and by 1,432,000 by 2010. That is a genuine population explosion. Right now, about 600,000 of us are born each year. Can socio-economic structures we have today possibly meet the needs for schools, training, jobs, etc. for the 45,000,000 people who will be living in this country in the year 2000? The demography problem is still there, bigger than ever, still calling for a realistic and dispassionate approach. The future of our country is at stake, and it cannot continue indefinitely to cope with the very grave consequence of alarming demographic growth. It is high time to start active programs to educate, inform, and raise the consciousness of the masses, particularly those in rural areas. It is just as necessary to expand even further the infrastructures for reception and clinical services for the masses of women.

The demography problem concerns every one of us, because it is clear that the nation's socio-economic structures will be overwhelmed in short order and incapable of responding to the needs of a population growing out of all control.

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CS0: 4519/4

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS REVIEWED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 2 Oct 83 p 3

[Text] Local development is the foundation for the decentralization of economic activities.

Outstanding results have been achieved in the quality of the work done on the projects and in keeping large-scale projects on schedule.

The principal objective of these projects remains raising the citizens' standard of living.

Thus, the M'Sila Governorate authorities have begun rigorously supervising the projects in the governorate.

In Tamanrasset, roads are being graded and new areas are being mapped out for projects and social development.

The dynamism and speed with which the ETR [Tamanrasset Road Construction Company] carries out development projects are exemplary.

Local authorities and the economic community of Cherchell are very interested in the social and educational infrastructure.

Tamanrasset: Civil Engineering Projects Carried out in the Governorate

Tamanrasset (APS)--Established in 1979, the ETR of Tamanrasset has earned its credentials because of the efforts made and results achieved, making it an organization able to help develop the Governorate of Tamanrasset.

Since its inception, the ETR has completed several civil engineering projects in the governorate, such as river crossing places for the roads, the airfields of In-Guezzam and Tin-Zaouatene, the 200-km road linking Silet with Tim'Gaouine and an 80-km road connecting Tamanrasset with the village of Tahifet.

The 80-km dirt road connecting Tamanrasset with the tourist attraction of Assekren has been graded, among others.

It must be permanently maintained to allow the ever-growing number of visitors to gain access to the site of Assekren.

Installation of a Data-Processing Center at In-Salah

The ETR has planned several projects--grading the dirt roads in the daïra of In-Salah, paving the streets in the city of In-Salah, opening a 60-km dirt road between Assekren and Hirafok and creating river crossing places in the oueds of In-Amguel, Tit and Otoul.

The recent creation of the ETR coincides with the start of the 5-year plan. It is solving the problems inherent in its operations; the major difficulty is moving the public works machines over long distances to the project sites.

To minimize the difficulties caused by the lack of spare parts, the ETR has begun a real equipment maintenance policy.

The vehicles which are needed for work far from Tamanrasset are maintained with great care by 20 individuals assigned to a maintenance area. About 10 in this team are being trained by the company. This training policy allows ETR to prepare its own technicians and enables its workers to benefit from continuous training.

After acquiring these vehicles, the ETR got two surfacing and grading machines for paving roads.

Taking into consideration its evolution and the tasks ahead as it sets up an extensive road network in the governorate, the ETR, with a staff of 170, has raised the matter of hiring more specialists.

In addition, with its own construction resources, the ETR is planning to build a housing project for its personnel, financed entirely by company funds.

The ETR of Tamanrasset has written texts locally on the SGT and applied the code on job classifications. It projects that it will set up a data-processing center in 1984, the first in the Tamanrasset Governorate.

M'Sila: Adherence to Project Schedules

M'Sila (APS)--Concerned with developing the entire governorate and faithful to the principle of on-the-site inspections of social,

economic and cultural projects, the members of the coordinating committee of the M'Sila Governorate inspected several projects completed or in progress in several centers in the M'Sila commune last Wednesday.

After presiding over a ceremony distributing profits of 22 million centimes to 51 physically handicapped people at the ONABROS unit of M'Sila, the officials next visited the addition to the paramedical school which has a treatment center for the people of the Djaafra neighborhoods and surrounding area.

In the morning, the members of the governorate coordinating committee also inspected a section of the road to the center of Louiza and initiated electrical service with 110 connections in El Djorf.

At the headquarters of the M'Sila mouhafadha, the officials presided over the session of the governorate commission for preparing the Fifth FLN Congress; early in the afternoon, they opened the cultural center of the city of M'Sila. With only some of the equipment presently in place, this establishment is one of 13 similar projects in the governorate.

Still within the M'Sila city limits, the officials inspected a work site on a 23-km road which will link the county seat of the governorate with the centers of Mezrîr, Hedjadeba and Ouled Sidi Ben Zeid.

The work begun on 20 March 1983 by SOPAM [Equipment Depot Company] at a cost of approximately 11,537,000 dinars currently is 50 percent behind schedule.

After visiting the new M'Sila high school, the third school to open in the governorate at the beginning of the school year, the governorate authorities next went to the Ouled Moussa center to inspect various finished projects.

In this village, a clothing factory providing 70 new jobs, a canteen capable of feeding 100 people and a post office were inaugurated by the members of the coordinating committee who later laid the cornerstone for an administrative complex and a treatment center. These projects should be completed in the first quarter of 1984.

During this visit, an AEP network and a 50-cubic meter reservoir, both operational, were inaugurated to benefit the people of Ouled Moussa.

Both at M'Sila and elsewhere, in the centers visited, the officials urged businessmen and heads of communal and governorate organizations to respect timetables and quality of work and labor for the people's well-being.

The members of the coordinating committee were also receptive to the requests and suggestions from the business and government community which is anxious to complete its task successfully.

For the Establishment of the Flight Training School at Bou-Saada

The initial work for the future flight training school near the Eddis Bou-Saada Airfield is progressing since a delegation from the Ministry of Transportation and the head of the Houari Boumediene International Airport visited there recently.

This school, which was initially planned for Ain El-Bey (Constantine) and transferred quite recently to Bou-Saada will cover 32 hectares, according to the initial specifications; it will be equipped with all teaching and socio-educational resources for "training according to the international standards of civil aviation personnel techniques and provide pleasant living conditions."

Still according to the initial specifications, this school, which will accommodate 500 student pilots, mechanics and engineers, will have an auditorium, two hangers--one for flight instruction and maintenance of the school fleet, and the second for training maintenance crews--and two buildings to house trainees and school personnel.

The teaching facility will have 20 laboratories and workshops, a print shop, library and a fleet of 14 single-engine planes, 6 two-engine planes and a propeller plane to train student pilots.

The entire project will be completed in 36 months.

A Ministry of Transportation team is expected there at any time to make the final choice of location and ways and means of adapting the plans to the location.

At Cherrhell, 150 Rural Housing Units Received

Blida (APS)--Continuing the inspection and working tours of the 33 communes of the governorate, the members of the coordinating committee of the Blida governorate, on a working visit to the villages of the daïra of Cherrhell last Tuesday, inaugurated several social and educational projects in the communes of Menaceur, Damous, Gouraya and Cherrhell.

The educational infrastructure in the Blida Governorate which late this year will have some 1,000 classes and 900 new student lodgings has just added 12 new classes in the Damous commune, classes and lodgings for one at Messelmoun in the Gouraya commune, rooms for six in the center of

Sidi Amar, the Menaceur commune and quarters for four at Sidi Ghelis in the Chercell commune. The opening of new classes and quarters during these biweekly tours attests to the vitality in this area by the communal works enterprises.

The citizens whose houses were destroyed by the disaster are building new permanent residences with state aid and the help of the APC [People's Communal Assemblies]. The leaders of the Blida Governorate inaugurated 150 rural housing units at Bel-Afia, the village in the Dahra mountains, in the Gouraya commune.

In the same commune, they visited the construction site where 85 houses are being built at Messelmoun for the disaster victims. The foundations for this housing have been laid and the residences provide the structure for the Messelmoun urban area; a projected water tower with a 650-cubic meter capacity will increase its drinking water supply. The work on this major project was begun on this occasion.

The local administration can be in closer contact with the residents of this village with the APC radio station from Gouraya which was inaugurated that same day; then too, the officials visited a new primary school with boarding facilities for children whose homes are in the nearby mountains.

Moreover, in the self-help area, it should be mentioned that 450 rural housing units have been delivered of the 1,300 planned for the disaster victims in the Gouraya commune.

It is a problem to transport building supplies to the mountainous region of the daïra of Chercell.

Improving the citizens' living conditions also means improvements in the cities. The improvements in the center of Larhat are completed by similar projects in the daïra of Chercell in the context of communal development programs.

The members of the coordinating committee ended their inspection tour by distributing diplomas at the Chercell port to 54 skippers-fishermen and 5 electricians who successfully completed a training course. On the same occasion, a local fisherman was awarded professional recognition.

9479

CSO: 4519/3

GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDES TOWARD PRESS, OPPOSITION CRITICIZED

Meaning of President's Statement Analyzed

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jul 83 p 7

[Article by Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad]

[Text] The fact that ministers are implementing the plan is not enough to keep them in office if they fail to manage, if their conduct becomes corrupt or if they violate the constitution or the law. It is enough that criticism be based on true facts; criticism should not be restricted in any way that would stifle the freedom of the press. The meaning of President Mubarak's failure to respond to the opposition's memorandum on the elections after its announcement that it would boycott the elections of local councils held by "absolute litst."

On the last day of Ramadan President Mubarak met with the chairmen of the boards of directors and of the editorial boards of those newspapers that are called national newspapers. The president met with those people to explain domestic and foreign conditions. This is a commendable practice had it not been tainted by the fact that the counterparts for these reporters in partisan newspapers were not invited to that meeting.

It is improper to divide the press into a press that is accepted, with whom the president meets, and a press that is not accepted and is not invited to meet with the president. The press that is accepted is the press that favors the government and the ruling party. That press is even called the national press or the government press. These newspapers publish news of the ruling party; they publish details of that party's meetings; and they publish the recommendations of its committees and the movements of its members. News of the ruling party is headlined in a manner that draws the reader's attention. In most cases these newspapers cover the meetings of the party, but they print nothing about opposition parties. It's as though the opposition parties were completely boycotted or they were parties that were not recognized legally. In fact, these newspapers do not publish other news that may be in the interest of another party but not the ruling party. If they publish such news, they do so briefly and timidly, whereas if the news were in favor of the ruling party and against the other parties they

make the news jump out of the page. When the courts issue a ruling that is favorable to the opposition, the so-called national newspapers hardly refer to it. However, such news is prominently placed if the ruling is against the opposition parties. When former minister of the interior, Nabawi Isma'il filed his suit directly against AL-SHA'B, the forementioned newspapers used to print news of the court deliberations on the front page in the form of semi-official bulletins. When the court rejected the minister's suit and exonerated AL-SHA'B, the forementioned newspapers did not print the news. It were as though they were loyal to that former minister, a member of the Political Office of the National Democratic Party. AL-AKHBAR printed the news in a twisted fashion, stating that Mr Nabawi would appeal the court decision rejecting his suit. It is known that if this appeal goes through, it will be restricted to a civil suit.

When the three parties that are not in power called a press conference after a call for the election of local councils was issued, these so-called national newspapers, except for AL-AKHBAR, did not publish this news. They only printed the bare facts about that press conference so that the ordinary reader could hardly understand the reality of the disagreement between them and the government. Can that attitude of those who are responsible for those newspapers be considered consistent with the mission of those newspapers: to provide readers with the news from a position of neutrality and without bias? Or does the fact that they are all party members and members of the ruling party override considerations of their professional duty and the integrity of a reporter's task which has been entrusted to them?

It may be that this news blackout on opposition parties and the fact that the so-called national newspapers are deliberately not publishing the news in a proper fashion are forcing these parties to call broad press conferences that are attended by press agencies and representatives of Arab and foreign newspapers. In addition, these press conferences are attended by representatives of Egyptian newspapers to ensure that the circle of publication is expanded so that world public opinion, Egyptians abroad or Egyptians in the country who listen to foreign broadcasts would not misunderstand what is happening as a result of the publication of truncated or distorted news or as a result of the publication of government responses to statements made by the opposition without printing these statements in their entirety. In many instances when the government's responses to the opposition's statements are published without those statements by the opposition, readers cannot make a sound comparison of the two opinions.

But perhaps President Mubarak wanted to restrict the invitation to officials in the so-called national press because criticism published by these newspapers about negligence and lack of control came close to the criticism that was being published by the partisan opposition press. It is this negligence and lack of control that led to the series of disasters and calamities which befell the country recently in the past period. [President Mubarak may have wanted to meet with the so-called national press] so it would not assume an anti-people position. Therefore, it was not the president's intention to assume a biased position in favor of this press or a position indicating that he was boycotting the partisan press or was dissatisfied with it.

And here President Muhammad Husni Mubarak got out of being thought to have assumed a biased position in favor of the so-called national newspapers, and he

assumed a biased position in favor of Fu'ad Muhyi-al-Din's government. He defended its failure to rule the country and its inability to solve any one of the people's problems. This is making people lose hope in having the head of state use his constitutional powers to save them from this government that is failing. And this would ultimately threaten security and stability in the country.

No Cabinet Shuffle and No Changes among Ministers as Long as There Is a Commitment To Implement the Plan

[This statement was made] in the course of defending Fu'ad Muhyi-al-Din's government despite the unanimous opinion that it was responsible for the lack of control, the negligence and the indolence with which the rule of law was being implemented. [The president] insisted that the ministers stay in their positions, even those whose resignations had been called for by writers of all tendencies in all newspapers and magazines. These writers had urged that the minister of transportation and communications, Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli give up his position and that he be replaced. This [appeal] was made in a statement that we included in an article we wrote. That article was printed in AL-SHA'B on 28 June 1983. We add to that what was written by Mr Ahmad Hamrush in ROSE AL-YUSUF Magazine. It is one of those so-called national publications. Ahmad Hamrush's article which was entitled, "Please Resign!" stated that a minister would be held responsible for all the mistakes and corruption in his ministry unless he had taken the first step of holding those responsible for these matters accountable. Fate may be the reason for one incident, but it is not the reason for all the incidents: train collisions, fires on ships, malfunctioning telephones and hundreds of people losing their lives.

The expectations we expressed in the forementioned article, entitled, "Is This a Challenge to the People, or Is It Obstinacy and Solidarity?" turned out to be true. We expected the logic of current matters to lead to a consensus of public opinion about the fact that that minister must be changed, and we expected that to strengthen his position in the cabinet further. His pictures were everywhere in the newspapers: inaugurating a pier that was built in the port of al-Adabiyah in the Gulf of Suez and giving out diplomas at graduation ceremonies held at the Academy of Maritime Transport in Alexandria--the academy is affiliated with the Arab League. In fact, there were pictures of the minister inaugurating a private agency for sea voyages. Someone told me that the statements against Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli which appeared in opposition and non-opposition newspapers not only consolidated his position in the cabinet, but also got him nominated to a permanent position instead of the ministerial position that is by nature temporary. Engineer Mutawalli was nominated to head the Suez Canal Authority after its president, Engineer Mashhur Ahmad Mashhur indicated that he did not wish to serve another term. Praise the Lord!

Then when President Mubarak comes after all this and announces to leaders of the government press that there will be no changes in the cabinet and no changes among ministers as long as they continue to implement the plan, that announcement confirms [the notion] that ministers are not held accountable for their failure to manage the facilities that are under their control. The president's announcement confirms [the notion] that ministers are not to be questioned about any corrupt conduct they may be engaged in, regardless of its forms or its reasons, as long as they are implementing the projects in the plan.

This basis for evaluating the work that ministers do cannot be acceptable to the people. It is [also] constitutionally and logically unacceptable. The implementation of some projects in the annual plan this year does not mean that the operations and management of existing services and facilities are to be neglected. Implementation of the plan cannot be an excuse for overlooking willfull corruption or corruption that is a result of negligence. Does the implementation of new projects for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications warrant doing nothing about the dreadful negligence that caused 350 Egyptian and Sudanese citizens who were passengers on the ship, 10 Ramadan to burn to death? Does keeping up with the implementation of the projects of the new annual plan warrant that we close our eyes to train accidents that indicate a grave lack of concern for the lives and safety of passengers? [This lack of concern for the safety of passengers] is evident in successive communications between train conductors and in their communications with signaling centers. These are still operated with the same primitive methods that existed since the railroads were invented. The condition of the rails and of the ground on which the rails are fixed signals danger to anyone who can see. One need not be a technician to see that. I even said that in the speech I delivered during my trip to the governorate of Asyut before these serious accidents occurred.

Is the commitment of a government in its entirety to a plan for economic and social projects enough to warrant keeping it in power, even if it violates the provisions of the constitution which it took an oath to respect? This is what the Supreme Constitutional Court and the Administrative Court of the Council of State ruled in the case of the Bar Association. The government had embroiled the president in this case by having him sign a law that was unconstitutional.

The commitment to implement the plan is considered one of the factors used in evaluating and judging the performance of a government and [its] ministers, but it cannot be the only factor. In fact, any government would fail [in its efforts] to implement a plan if it does not have the support of the people. This is what President Mubarak himself said in the course of defending the government of Fu'ad Muhi al-Din. According to the government's newspapers, the president said, "If we were to bring a cabinet of angels, it will not do anything without the support of the people."

I hope the president will allow me to ask him to ask himself privately why the people do not support the government of Fu'ad Muhi al-Din. The solution to the entire situation lies in the answer to that question.

The Call for Well-Considered, Constructive Criticism without Libel Raises the Fears of Critics

In reviewing criticism of the government's conduct and actions President Mubarak asked that criticism [of the government] be constructive, well considered and non-libelous. These restrictions or specifications that the president is calling for in criticism of the government is arousing the fears of writers and commentators in the so-called national newspapers. Leaders in those newspapers will become more strict in publishing what is written in the aftermath of such instructions from the president.

Criticism should not be based on rumors or false facts: that is what is required.

But the distinction between whether or not criticism is constructive and well-considered is subjective. What may be considered constructive by some people may not be so to others. Also it is not necessary for one who criticizes the conduct or policy of the government to come up with evidence for his criticism because he may not be a professional person.

Defamation of a person who committed the conduct that is being criticized is inevitable, for there can be no distinction between an act and the perpetrator of that act. All that is being called for in this regard is that offensive or disparaging remarks be avoided because such remarks go beyond the realm of permissible criticism. Let President Mubarak remember his statement about there being no one above criticism!

President Mubarak's Failure To Deal with the Memorandum on the General Elections from the President of the Parties That Are not in Power

It was astonishing that the president held a press conference after an election was called to elect representatives to local councils from the parties' lists. Representatives would be elected by absolute majority. It was astonishing that this happened after leaders of opposition parties announced they would boycott these elections, and they published a memorandum that was presented to the president last 19 December. The opposition parties did not receive a reply to their memorandum to the president, nor were they invited to discuss it. It was astonishing that all this happened and that the president did not say a single word about the matter.

The subject of the general elections--whether these are elections for local councils, for extending the term of half the members of the Advisory Council or for electing a new People's Assembly--is a national question that affects the future of the country. It should not have been overlooked or ignored at a conference held with leaders of the so-called national press. In fact, it is astonishing that that press conference was held and that no one present asked a single question about this serious national matter which is thought to have a far-reaching effect on the course of political events in the country in the coming period.

People would like to know why elections for local councils are based on "absolute lists" whereas elections for the People's Assembly are based on individual candidates or on party lists with proportional representation for the number of votes cast for each list.

People want to know why President Mubarak did not meet with leaders of opposition parties to discuss with them statements they made in the memorandum they submitted to him about 6 months ago before a decision was made to call an election for local councils 5 months before the election was to be held. The people want to know why President Mubarak did not meet with opposition leaders when he was the one who said that as president of the republic, he was the president for everyone and not just for the National Democratic Party. If no deliberations are held with all the leaders of parties and other national forces on such a general national subject, on what subjects then would there be deliberations? What happened to make President Mubarak change the policy with which he began his term in office? The people regarded as auspicious the president's occasional meetings with opposition leaders and some public figures for an exchange of views. Through

these meetings the president was making sure that he was not listening to one party only, that is, the leaders of the ruling party and the organizations that are subject to the ruling party's directions in government.

This meeting with leaders of government newspapers, the so-called national newspapers, is raising many questions that require many explanations. The people are distressed and fed-up with the poor condition of services and public facilities. They are fed up with the difficulties of life and with the dangers they are exposed to as a result of a lack of controls and of negligence. Instead of finding a sympathetic ear that would alleviate their difficulties and give them freedom to elect their true representatives who would defend their interests, they hear words of support for a government that is failing; their criticism of the government is restricted; and they find elections systems being set up that would use all means and methods to impose this government on them once again. We ask God Almighty to alleviate this situation.

No Points Scored against Opposition

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Jul 83 p 7

[Article]

[Text] Correspondent Majid 'Atiyah published in AL-MUSAWWAR a rebuke directed at Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, the president of the party because he opposed raising the limit on the income tax exemption for annual incomes from 2,000 pounds to 3,000 pounds. AL-AHALI considered that criticism the first political point to be scored by a national newspaper against the Egyptian opposition.

The fact of the matter is that Colleague Majid 'Atiyah did not score a point [against the opposition] at all. In fact, his article was more like a ball that had gone out of bounds because he had overlooked the following considerations:

1. Raising the tax exemption on net income [from 2,000 pounds] to 3,000 pounds a year will benefit not only senior government officials and public sector employees, but it will also apply to all those who earn an income no matter how high. In other words, this measure will benefit millionaires. This measure did not set bounds on the tax exemption as the old law did by limiting the tax exemption to those whose income does not exceed a certain bracket or [twice ?] the exemption limit.
2. Raising the exemption on net income for people from 2,000 pounds--or almost 166 pounds a month--to 3,000 pounds--or 250 pounds a month--requires that wages of low-level employees and workers be raised so that universal social justice can be achieved. This way not only senior employees would benefit from raising the tax exemption. Thus it would not be said that this change was intended to serve the interests of ministers and members of the People's Assembly who enacted that law and the interests of senior officials and employees as well.
3. The fact that the tax exemption remain unchanged at a time when the People's Assembly was looking into the matter of abolishing the many exemptions that exist so it can manage the revenues of the state and meet the deficit does not naturally preclude the necessity of having the government, through the tax organization, pay attention to the task of restraining major financiers who are evading tax payments and the task of collecting delinquent taxes from millionaires. In fact, this is what the president of the Labor Party has called for on all occasions within the People's Assembly.

GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITY CRITICIZED

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 27 Jul 83 p 12

[Article by Philip Jallab: "Dabus, You Delighted Us"]

[Text] It seems that the government is going out of its way to disappoint the opposition, even when the opposition finds in the government's policy the smallest good indication which it can support!

When it was announced officially that Egypt had refused to let the United States supervise the development of Ra's Banas Base and fly the American flag on that base, we all hailed that official, patriotic position, despite the well-known reservations [we had]. It was announced that Egypt had decided to develop the base with Egyptian funds and under Egyptian supervision. But before too long our official newspapers published a report that an Egyptian official had gone to the United States to ask Washington for financial aid to develop the base at Ra's Banas.

Because the information that the opposition has on military affairs is not what it should be, the opposition believed that the government had let it down and had changed its mind. The opposition believed that the conflict [over the matter] had to do only with the issue of flying the American flag on the base and that it had nothing to do with the essence of the problem.

However, circles close to the government offered an explanation that could clarify this contradictory position. These circles believe that our request for U.S. aid to develop the base does not necessarily entail that the United States would have any military rights in Ra's Banas. For it is known that the United States is fond of building and developing military bases and that it has no self-interest in doing so. This fondness for building and developing military bases is quite selfless and was not known to our ancestors. It is being said that as soon as the United States knows of a country in the Third or Fourth World that wants to build or develop a military base, it rushes to make a contribution to that effort. Its motives in doing so are humane and charitable, regardless of the political position of the country that has the base.

When our government affirmed that it was not aligned and that it would not become involved in the struggle between the two superpowers, we were pleased with that wise policy and we expected it to develop further. However, THE WASHINGTON POST, which hates to see a good relationship between the government and the opposition

[continue], spoiled everything by publishing part of the testimony of the U.S. assistant secretary of defense. That defense official testified in Congress about a "secret base" in Egypt and about 100 pilots and warehouses for weapons for about 70 million dollars.

Therefore, we expected our government to deny these American allegations and to teach the newspaper and the U.S. official an unforgettable lesson. But the government, for reasons unknown to us, followed the lead of a spokesman for the U.S. State Department and simply denied the existence of a secret base. The spokesman did not deny the presence of the 100 pilots or the weapons. Then one of the ministers in the cabinet severely reprimanded the opposition for believing THE WASHINGTON POST and not believing MAYU, even though [the latter] is not a foreign newspaper.

The only dumbfounding response from the minister was his bitter ridicule of AL-AHALI and of THE WASHINGTON POST. The minister brilliantly asked, "How did you know they were 100 pilots? Did you go into their bedrooms and count them?"

This had indeed been the error of the American newspaper and of AL-AHALI, which based its report on that newspaper. They had all overlooked the fact that one can only count the number of U.S. military men or pilots by going into their bedrooms. Since neither the American editor nor the Egyptian editor was able to go into the pilots' rooms, then the news was not correct!

Then comes the problem of the civil war in Chad. Officials continue to delight us with statements such as, "Our forces are not fighting outside our borders." At the same time, however, we are suggesting to African governments the formation of military forces that would fight outside the borders.

Our statements about non-alignment continue to increase as the date approaches for the joint annual military exercises with the United States on our land. But perhaps it is the objective of our government to recruit the U.S. government into the group of non-aligned countries.

Thirty-one years after the July Revolution our government does not feel distressed at all because those who are sharing this great privilege with Egypt--the privilege of holding joint [military] exercises with the United States--are of all the Arab countries Musqat, Somalia and Sudan.

And then they talk about the 23 July Revolution!

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HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF LIBYA'S PRESENT INTERNATIONAL ROLE

Paris MAGAZINE HEBDO in French Vol I, No 1, 1983

[Article by Francois Lebrette]

[Text] Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi dreams of acquiring an empire that would stretch from the western Sahara to the Persian Gulf. But there is a great gap between the dream and the reality. If he is impressive in Chad, it is mainly because he is meeting with hardly any resistance there. And in his own country, his modernism is cracking, like those barely finished apartment buildings in which he has decided to rehouse the entire population, who have known only desert tents.

Imagine that Liechtenstein is invading Austria. Led by its enlightened dictator, the army--with more tanks than soldiers--is already encamped outside Vienna. The FRG is alarmed, the United Nations protests, Mitterrand hesitates, but nothing is done about it: the dictator persists and justifies his invasion by claiming that the Austrians are of the same race as the Liechtensteiners. Moreover, his avowed ambition is to recreate the great Liechtenstein empire which, as everyone knows, extended from Portugal to Outer Mongolia.

The delirium of a bad scriptwriter, combining Charlie Chaplin's "Great Dictator" and "The Mouse That Roared"? No, just an attempt to transpose to Europe a reality to which people have definitely had to become accustomed in Africa. "Brother" Qadhdhafi, a dictator controlling an uninhabited desert, is giving Ronald Reagan nightmares. He has already dispatched his commandos or his troops against Egypt, against Tunisia, against Chad, against Morocco. He has fought at the side of Idi Amin Dada in Uganda and with Emperor Bokassa I in the Central African Empire. He is financing the Basque ETA [Basque Homeland and Liberty Group], the Irish Republican Army, perhaps the Corsican separatists, and even the Moslem rebellion in the jungles of Mindanao in the Philippines. His secret services have been sent to assassinate government opponents in places as far away as Rome and London. Other opponents in Libya have been hanged. And peace-loving Frenchmen have found themselves in prison for more than a year for espionage. Finally, only Israel has never suffered the least damage from this violent opponent of Zionism. On the other hand, if Yaser Arafat never sleeps twice in the same bed, it is partly because of his Libyan "ally," who supports the rebellion within the PLO.

And the United States had better watch its step: "If it tries to attack us, it will find a second Vietnam on our soil," the emperor of all the Libyas threatens. How could Ronald Reagan make any sense out of this? He received a strange Christmas greeting from Qadhdhafi 2 years ago, telling him that Libya would henceforth support the interests of American Indians: "Because the majority of Indians are of Libyan origin and in the future I hope to be able to present you with archeological and historical research proving this origin."

The Libya of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is an all-encompassing challenge--a challenge to history, to geography, to agriculture, to economics, to the Arab world, to the East and to the West, secondarily a challenge to Francois Mitterrand and, more generally, a challenge to reason itself. It is also an enigma: what is the reason for this international agitation and, above all, what is the reason for its success? The fact that 2 million bedouins are such a concern to the Pentagon is, to say the least, a paradox

The Libyan Desert Was the Center of the Ancient World

The key to the enigma is undoubtedly to be found in the claim that Comanche, Sioux and Oglala Indians are part of the Libyan race: Qadhdhafi is motivated by a very personal concept of history and if the tanks of his Islamic Legion are in action around Faya-Largeau, it is because of his very special view of the ancient world. Fortunately for our poor Western brains, there is a very complete manual of historical Qadhdhafism. In a commissioned work published 4 years ago ("la Verte Libye de Qadhdhafi" [Qadhdhafi's Green Libya], Hachette-Realites), islamologist Pierre Rossi provides his account of ancient history as it is now being told in the tents of the Sidra desert. Let's fasten our seat belts, we're going back to the dawn of history

"We have no idea of Libya's former grandeur," he writes. Indeed. Nor were we aware that the language spoken there "resembled that of the Egyptians, Babylonians, Hittites and Persians, as it was also a branch of that powerful Aramaic tongue which imperceptibly became the Arabic language." We also learn that the terms "Phoenician" and "Palestinian" in Greek "have exactly the same meaning and the same etymology," that the division between Semitic languages (which include Arabic) and Indo-European languages (which include Hittite and Persian) is a stupidity of Western scholars, and that the vast Aramaic (or Palestinian, or Carthaginian, since the terms are also synonymous) empire stretched from the Ebro River to the Persian Gulf and its capital was not Carthage, but obviously the Libyan city of Leptis Magna, Labdah in Arabic.

"It is more likely that the name of Carthage was a generic expression used to designate a group of sister cities whose capital was actually greater Labdah (Leptis Magna), given the vastness of the ruins which have survived, whereas almost nothing survives on the Tunisian site of what people continue to call Carthage."

Had historians and archeologists never noticed that? That only demonstrates that they know nothing about it: "Too many generally accepted ideas clutter our learning, keeping young researchers from recreating an historical knowledge more in keeping with the truth of the people and not of scholars."

Let us denounce the dictatorship of the experts!

When Libya Colonized Rome and Athens

Mr Publishers, revise your sixth-grade textbooks immediately: "For certainly, the very tiny Greek and Roman cities inevitably came under the influence of the huge Aramaic empire, whose economic, military and sociological might was without equal; they were answerable to it. Thus it is an absurdity to have made Rome and Athens conquering and dominant states."

Do you believe that Cyrene, to the east of Libya, was a Greek colony? That is a serious mistake. That Sabratha and Leptis Magna were established by veterans of the Roman Army? You are indeed stupid. Write this out 100 times: "It takes a great deal of imagination or naivete to believe that with such an impoverished economy, reduced to a few acres of wheat, onions and lupine, Rome could have conquered brilliant Carthage."

Admit that such an empire necessarily discovered America and that Libyan claims concerning the Indians are totally justified

And even if you don't believe it, put the colonel's bellicose diplomacy back into that perspective: it becomes unexpectedly coherent from that standpoint.

The same applies to Chad and the entire Sahel. It is the region for which his claims are historically the most justified. The Greek historian Herodotus, in fact, tells us that five descendants of the Nasamon people, who lived along the Gulf of Sidra in antiquity, set out one day to explore the desert. After crossing vast stretches of sand, they came to a forested plain where they were captured by little black men, with whom they crossed over swamps and finally reached a city traversed by a great river in which crocodiles lived.

This story was written in the 5th century B.C. For 24 centuries, people believed it was a tall tale: until the discovery of the Niger River and the last pygmies in the virgin forest. And today all historians recognize that a vast trail formerly existed between the Libyan coast and black Africa. This "wagon trail" was the channel for all trade between the Mediterranean and the continent below. The Romans also gained control of it, sending Consul Cornelius Balbus to conquer the Garamante people in the heart of the desert. And Mussolini, who considered himself the descendant of the Roman Caesars, in turn sent his proconsul Italo Balbo there. The similarity is obviously not accidental

It was this desert, this route which had been forgotten for centuries, that was proclaimed independent in 1951 by a majority of votes in the United Nations, and also because the Haitian delegate changed his mind in the middle of the session As a token of Libyan gratitude, one of Tripoli's main thoroughfares still bears the name of President Duvalier's island.

In the South, Unknown Oases Among the Dunes

It was the poorest country in the world. Right after World War II, its only product for export was the scrap iron left behind by Rommel's army or by the British: gutted tanks, bombed-out vehicles, inoperable guns. And the Libyans hardly made a profit from this unexpected trade: it did make a billionaire of one man, but his name was Joanovici

Until oil was discovered, the scant population knew the same destitution, in the few fields along the coast or in the rare oases of the south; starving, more than 98 percent illiterate, their only world record was their alarming percentage of people who were blind or had eye diseases. Even today, in the Murzuq desert there are practically unexplored oases whose inhabitants live a completely timeless existence: they are the Dawada, or worm eaters, so named because they live on a species of freshwater shrimp found in the lakes which appear to be mirages among these dunes.

It was like a fairy tale: one day, the poorest of all hit the jackpot. At the current price, the oil manna represents an income of more than 60,000 francs per year and per Libyan, including babies. They all became civil servants overnight: policemen, road repairmen, clerks in ministries, "chaouch," i.e., orderlies--the largest corporation in the country. Even the 150,000 heads of families listed as farmers often have an imaginary civil service job. It is a system established to recycle and redistribute petrodollars

This oil manna neutralized the little economic activity which was able to exist: why cultivate the land when money is falling from the sky? Now everything is imported, starting with the working population. For slightly more than 2 million Libyans, there are some 400,000 Egyptian laborers in rural areas and at construction sites. About 50,000 Tunisians mainly operate restaurants and hotels. Today, Tripoli is Babel: 10,000 Palestinians, just as many Syrians, several thousand Nigeriens, and American technicians continue to extract the oil. There are also 10,000 Yugoslavs, 3,000 Bulgarians and the same number of Poles. And nearly 3,000 Frenchmen. To the Libyans, there is nothing abnormal about the situation: since the time of the Turkish domination, work was performed by black slaves abducted from the south, from Chad in particular. Now technicians are purchased in the West, or in the East: Babel also has hundreds of North and South Koreans and Pakistanis, and in the army there are Russians, East Germans, some Cubans, and several hundred Turks

Buy Your Video Recorder in Tripoli

In this country of readily hysterical nationalism, the smallest store has been transformed into a display case with goods from all over the world. In the stalls in the old city of Tripoli, near the Turkish citadel, there are sheep from Bulgaria, camels from Tunisia, oil from Spain, butter from Charentes. Along the ochre-colored thoroughfares of the Mussolinian city, products made in Japan are king: high-fi's, calculators, video recorders, at untaxed prices.

And cars--300,000 Peugeot and Japanese automobiles for 3,000 km of asphalt roads. Another record: the Libyans win hands down the world championship for traffic accidents. On the edge of Tripoli, where the desert becomes a wasteland, automobile graveyards follow the fleets of new cars parked out in the open along with concrete pipe, farm machinery and public works equipment. Products do the same as the people: they wait. In the ministries, the motto is the same: "ghudwah ba'd ghudwah," tomorrow, the day after tomorrow

The opulence seems artificial, like the roads, thin layers of asphalt plastered over the sand. The uniforms are brand-new but are removed beginning at 2 p.m.,

since no one works in the afternoon. And in the morning, the ceremony with green tea, boiled and highly sweetened, probably takes 2 hours easily. Female students at the university are photographed, female "soldiers" parade with Kalashnikov rifles, but once the ceremony is over, they put on the traditional veil again, which allows only one eye to see through: the Libyan woman remains a "cyclops." Her marriage is arranged, at the cost of a more and more insane dowry, a true index of inflation. The second wife is a dream that is difficult to achieve: not because of a lack of money, but because the Egyptian border is no longer as permeable as it used to be. The Egyptian woman is highly prized; she is 10 times more expensive. From the time of the Turks and even of the Italians, a black woman was taken instead as a second wife. Always Chad and Niger ... the southern Sahara also provided males as well: in the Ghadamis and Murzug oases, slave markets were still operating, more or less clandestinely, in the early 1960's.

In the general indolence, one man dreams of grandiose exploits. Unfortunately for Colonel Qadhdhafi, history cannot be purchased like a video recorder. The artificial modernization is not working. The population is satisfied enough with their leader, "who irritates the christians," but have less appreciation for his fanatical taste for urbanization. Everyone must be housed in kinds of public housing projects scattered among the auto graveyards, but the windows have not always been installed, elevators operate only during government working hours, the electricity is unreliable and plumbing is temperamental. Obviously, a 3-room apartment costs only 150 francs a month, including utilities, but people are starting to miss the old clay house and its central courtyard where mint in flower pots scented the air.

A Blessed Land for Arms Suppliers

And then, as the old song goes, all those foreigners create an atmosphere of insecurity; they rob you blind. This is not entirely false: with the first rains, the new road crumbles; the dam built by the Yugoslavs on Jabal Nafusah will not withstand two floods. Even in the case of weapons, Qadhdhafi has sometimes been sold junk by arms suppliers as the very latest in Western technology. The Russians also get paid "cash," and their materiel is more rustic, but at least they aren't swindlers. And for after-sales service, they provide you with whole regiments of East Germans.

The foreigners are not always at fault: they are often asked to do preposterous things, pointless things even more often. The grandiose agricultural development plan, totaling 25 billion francs in 5 years, lies somewhere between the ridiculous and very rustic reasoning.

Between the Awbari desert and the foothills of the Murzuq plateau flows the Irawan spring. Flow is a big word: the water really springs forth only every 50 years. But there are permanent wells in this "valley" and a relatively abundant underground aquifer. We are in the former kingdom of Garamantes, the ruined earthen walls of whose capital, Jarmah, still rise around the forum of Cornelius Balbus. A little farther on in the rubble, hillocks mark the tombs of the Garamantes kings. And a few kilometers away, a surrealist image: Frisian cows graze on fields of green alfalfa before returning to their air-conditioned stables. All around, the wind stirs up a mist of red sand and the

few nomads, letting their herds of camels and large Sudanese goats graze, pass by indifferently: the ultramodern Awbari agricultural complex, entirely imported from France and still managed by European technicians, obviously does not concern them. And what is to be done with the milk and meat? Tripoli is more than 1,000 km away over a road which crosses one of the most hostile deserts in the world: sand, great stretches of rocky "gravel" desert, then sand again At Awbari, milk for a nonexistent population is produced at extremely high cost.

The Sheep Don't Get Airsick

Even more gigantic, more remote, more insane: to the east, around the oasis of al-Kufrah, from which the Leclerc column departed (coming from Chad, always Chad), circular fields of alfalfa, each 100 hectares in area, with their raw greenery, clash with the dead ochre-colored desert extending to the horizon. In the center of each circle, a well supplies water to the huge 650-meter irrigation pipe which waters the entire circumference in 24 hours, at least when the electronic control system is working. Here it is sheep which benefit from this unexpected manna. They graze, but once again, for which consumers? The trail which exhausts even 4-wheel-drive Land Rover's is not marked out with signposts the entire way. So the sheep are flown to the Benghazi slaughter houses more than 1,000 km away. But there will be some local consumers from now on: East German "technical assistants" in charge of the supply corps on the new military base. For Kufrah has become the southernmost Libyan base, the one from which the Mig's that bombed Faya-Largeau departed. At least the Pakistani and Korean pilots are well fed.

In the north, on the narrow coastal strip suitable for agriculture, the projects are less grandiose and apparently more realistic. Colonel Qadhdhafi has decided to create a farming class. On land cleared by Roman colonists and improved by the farmers who came from Sicily under Mussolini, thousands of farms have emerged: mass production. One family, which has 15 hectares, has been installed on each farm. Seeds are free and tractors and electrical generators are also provided by the government. The farmer owns his land, but to encourage him, he is still paid a salary of about 2,000 francs a month. And the government will buy his crop from him, often at triple its market price. But applicants are not tripping over each other and these sudden gentlemen farmers quickly devised a scheme: they entrust the farm's operation to a few half-starved laborers who have illegally immigrated from Egypt and who are all the more docile since they risk being deported with every political crisis. As for the actual owner, he has already returned to Benghazi or Tripoli to open a street stall containing heaps of Seiko watches. Retail trade has theoretically been nationalized and everything should go through the state supermarkets, but little shops reopen as soon as they are shut down.

What about industry? The situation is even more artificial. The abundance of goods has led to the disappearance of the few crafts that were languishing before the oil era and new plants can be counted on the fingers of two hands. And here again, the manpower is entirely imported: Tunisians in the only textile mill and in the shoe factory; Americans at the Marsa al-Burayghah refinery, the main oil terminal; Europeans to manage the fully automated bottle factory at Azizia, on the outskirts of Tripoli

Here again, Qadhdhafi's ambitions know no bounds. He wants everything--heavy iron and steel industry, electronics, nuclear power, especially nuclear power. Libya has thus become, after France, the principal importer of uranium from Niger. Why? There is no longer even any question of Libya passing it on to Iraq, the only Arab country with an embryonic nuclear technology: Tripoli is angry with Baghdad. The uranium ore has to remain in a hangar with a supply of still uncrated SAM [surface-to-air] missiles and the cracked mess hall for one of the new military bases.

The Era of the Masses: One Inhabitant per Square Kilometer

Qadhdhafi is perfectly aware of the failures of modernization. But he has tried everything to mobilize his small population. He has transformed his republic into a "Jamahiriyah," a neologism that can be translated as the state of the masses. For he has proclaimed the era of the masses, which is not the least of paradoxes in this underpopulated desert. With the Aouzou strip, there are nearly 2 million square kilometers for the 2 million Libyans.

Fortunately, there is foreign policy for trying to make up for domestic disappointments. First of all, the great dream of uniting the Arab nation. Two months after the coup d'etat of September 1969, there was a proclamation of unity with Egypt, and then with Syria and Sudan. Nothing took shape. Qadhdhafi became impatient. In 1973, he mobilized his "masses" for a march of unity, which was to end in Cairo. Egyptian customs officials put an abrupt end to the great dream, which was permanently broken by the 1977 "sand war": Sadat's army taught the Libyan neighbor a bitter lesson.

Rejected in the East, Qadhdhafi turned to the West: unity with Tunisia was proclaimed in 1974, just as unsuccessfully. In frustration, Qadhdhafi fomented an uprising in Gafsa in 1980, in southern Tunisia. He waited for Bourguiba's government to fall. Another failure. Massive aid to the POLISARIO Front in Western Sahara failed to produce any further results. The south then remained, the only route still open: to Niger and Chad, especially Chad. A new dream: the great Saharan federation, from Nouakchott to Mogadishu. But Algeria, a touchy neighbor, was on guard

In any case, if a merger were to take place, that would be the end of Libya and the end of Qadhdhafi very soon afterwards. Can we imagine the Libyan bonanza being swallowed up by Egypt's vast poverty? The living standard of Egyptian laborers would be slightly raised, but that of the Libyans would return to its level prior to the discovery of oil. The Murzuq bedouins and the Tripoli merchants tolerate their turbulent dictator with genuine affection, but only if their independent income status is not affected. The great Aramaic empire, a vast historical reverie, will long remain a dream.

Qadhdhafi's Arsenal

The French Army is no match for the Libyan Army. At least in terms of materiel: we have 470 fighter planes; Qadhdhafi has 560 aircraft, about 80 of which are Mirage fighters. The others are mainly Mig 21's, 23's, 25's and about a hundred Sukhoi 20's or 22's.

In the case of armored vehicles, the disproportion is even more pronounced: in comparison to our 2,400 tanks, the Libyans have more than 3,000, including 200 T-72's, the latest Soviet model. As for light armored vehicles, there are probably more than 10,000. These figures include only materiel which has actually been delivered. The 250 planes on order (which include 40 Mirage F1's) and several thousand new armored vehicles (which include 300 T-72's) will soon have to be added in.

The ratio of forces is fortunately reversed when personnel is considered. Qadhdhafi has 65,000 men in uniform, but less than 20 percent can be considered really operational. The entire supply corps and weapons maintenance are thus in the hands of foreign technicians, particularly 2,000 Soviets and 500 Czechs. As for the utilization of materiel, it is also almost exclusively the affair of foreigners. Each nationality has its specialty: the East Germans, about 800 tank crew members; the Cubans operate light vehicles; 300 North Korean pilots. And a few Frenchmen to handle Mirage aircraft

In Chad, the spearhead of the Libyan offensive is comprised of the "Islamic Legion," numbering about 6,000 men. They are mercenaries recruited from various Moslem countries in the Near East and Africa, Syria in particular, and are paid extremely well. But their loyalty is perhaps not unfailing; several dozen aircraft technicians, recruited as civilians in Pakistan, were surprised to find themselves confined to military bases in southern Libya. Islamabad has lodged an official protest with Tripoli.

The Emperor of the Tibesti

In a certain way, Colonel Qadhdhafi is "at home" in Faya-Largeau: the merger of Chad and Libya took place very officially on 7 January 1981. At the time, Goukouni was in power in Njamena. And even if the Chadian Government has since denounced the marriage of the two deserts, Tripoli has never officially recognized the divorce.

Libyan intervention in Chad predates even Qadhdhafi's coup d'etat. The Toubous tribes, to which both Hissene Habre and Goukouni belong, traditionally wandered over all of the Tibesti Mountains, on horseback along the border. And when the tribes rebelled against Njamena nearly 20 years ago, the Libyan Government at that time, the government of King Idriss el-Senoussi, quite naturally supported the movement: Goukouni is the son of the Derdei, the traditional leader of all the Toubous.

Qadhdhafi's concern was even greater. In 1973, he annexed the northern part of Chad, the famous Aouzou strip.

Goukouni finally took power in the Chadian capital in August 1979, but was quickly routed by his crony, Hissene Habre. The son of the Derdei then appealed to his northern protector. The alliance agreement was officially signed in June 1980. In September, the Libyan Army was in Faya-Largeau. In December, Goukouni was again master of Njamena.

But Goukouni made a mistake: under OAU pressure, he demanded the withdrawal of Libyan troops, which took place in November 1981. Hissene Habre's gang of several thousand men immediately went back on the offensive and took back Faya-Largeau in January 1982, and then Njamena in June. It was Goukouni's turn to follow the road into exile, to Tripoli, of course.

And the square dance is beginning again. Libya is starting to aid Goukouni again. Qadhdhafi's troops were back in Faya-Largeau in June 1983. On 30 July, Habre reoccupied the oasis; on 10 August, it came under Goukouni's control again. French intervention, in the second half of August, has put an end to this strange ballet. For the time being?

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BRIEFS

W. BANK TELEPHONE EXCHANGE--NABLUS--A IS300 million telephone exchange was inaugurated yesterday in Nablus to serve 4,000 subscribers in the city and its environs. The exchange, developed by Besek Ltd. and said to be the most modern in the country, links the subscribers to a direct-dialling system within the Netanya area code. The project was funded by the West Bank civil administration, which, however, has ruled against allowing the subscribers a direct international dialling service, for which the exchange is equipped. Speaking to local Arab notables at the inauguration ceremony, Communications Minister Mordechai Zipori said that West Bank Arabs have only one future, peaceful coexistence with the local Jewish settlers. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Sep 83 p 3]

CSO: 4400/27

ARMS PURCHASE FROM MALAYSIA UNDER CONSIDERATION

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 40, 3 Oct 83 p 5

[Text]

Jordan is interested in buying assault rifles and small arms ammunition manufactured in Malaysia, according to a report from Kuala Lumpur last week. The report quoted Malaysia's Deputy Defence Minister Abang Abu Bakar Abang Haji Mustafa as saying that the two countries would try to negotiate an export deal. He said Jordan's Armed Forces Commander, Lieut Gen Sharef Shaker, had indicated during talks in the Malaysian capital that Jordan was interested in purchasing 5.56-millimetre and 7.62 millimetre ammunition and that an explosives factory in the central state of Selangor would be refurbished to meet export orders.

The Malaysian official added that Jordan would also like to buy assault rifles which Malaysia plans to manufacture in association with a European firm. Five companies from Britain, Belgium, Austria, France and West Germany are bidding for the rifle project.

Lieut Gen Shaker was in Malaysia accompanying King Hussein and Queen Noor on a tour of the Far East. Trade between the two countries figured prominently in the Jordanian monarch's discussions with Malaysian leaders and a report indicated Jordanian businessmen had expressed interest in importing Malaysian palm oil and timber in addition to government-to-government sales of munitions.

Thailand, the next stop on King Hussein's tour of the Far East, is also anxious to boost trade between the two countries. Thai Foreign Ministry officials said proposals for a formal trade agreement were made during talks King Hussein held with Thai Premier Prem Tinsulanonda. The officials also noted that Thailand has many skilled workers who could help in Jordan's economic development, a somewhat dubious proposal in view of the large sums Jordan earns in remittances from Jordanian workers, many of them skilled, in Gulf countries.

CSO: 4400/27

NEW RULE TO REQUIRE JORDANIAN OWNERSHIP OF BANKS

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 39, 26 Sep 83 p 4

[Text]

Jordan is to introduce rules by the end of this year that would require 51 per cent. Jordanian ownership of all banks in the country, although the new regulations will be enforced gradually. Adnan al-Hindi, Executive Director of the Central Bank of Jordan, was quoted as saying that foreign banks would be allowed to select Jordanian partners that were established, publicly-owned companies and "not individuals who are just interested in buying and selling shares in order to get rich."

Mr Hindi indicated that banks had at first opposed the idea of majority Jordanian ownership when this was approved by the cabinet four months ago. "But we are sure they will respond favourably once they realise that the move will do their business good," he added. Foreign banks complying with the proposed legislation would be treated on equal terms with domestic banks, the Central Bank official pointed out. They would also be able to open new branches, which they cannot do under present rules, and could continue to repatriate profits.

Foreign banks operating in Jordan include Grindlays Bank of Britain and the British Bank of the Middle East, a subsidiary of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking

Corporation. Others are the Bank al-Mashrek of Lebanon, the Luxembourg-based Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Chase Manhattan Bank and Citibank NA of the US.

In an effort to encourage the local banking system, the Central Bank of Jordan has issued no new banking licences since 1978 and more recently stopped authorising the establishment of new finance houses. Jordan has 16 commercial banks, two investment banks, five finance companies, two Islamic banking institutions and four new savings institutions. There are also five specialised credit companies, all wholly or partly owned by the government.

One foreign bank, the Egyptian-owned Arab Land Bank, which has a capital of JD 3 million (\$8.2 million), has already agreed to accept Jordanian partners and a joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee is to supervise the change-over. In Mr Hindi's view, other foreign banks are likely to adopt a cautious attitude towards the new requirement. "Maybe they want to see how the Arab Land Bank will fare with Jordanian partners," he said.

CSO; 4400/27

AMMAN AL-DUSTUR INTERVIEWS PLO'S QADDUMI

JN121105 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Oct 83 p 9

[Text] During the 38th session of the UN General Assembly, our correspondent in New York 'Abd as-Salam Masarwah met with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department, and discussed with him the general Arab situation, the Lebanese issue, and the Palestinian problem. The following questions and answers formed part of this discussion:

Question: What do you want from the United Nations with regard to the Palestinian people's situation?

Answer: Every year, during the UN General Assembly session, we come here because this is an opportunity to meet with many officials, heads of state, and foreign ministers to explain the Palestinian problem; exchange viewpoints with our friends in the United Nations; listen to the numerous evaluations of the international situation, particularly the Middle East; and hear statements by the various foreign ministers on their political stands and those of their countries, particularly with regard to the Middle East problem which is the Palestinian problem. It is an opportunity for us to be close to the developments in all parts of the world.

Question: How do you evaluate the PLO situation 1 year after its fighters left Beirut? How do you evaluate the PLO's current political and military situation?

Answer: During this period, the PLO carried out many political and military activities. The military operations inside the occupied territories never ceased. The Palestinian resistance worked hand in hand with the Lebanese nationalist movement in resisting the Israeli occupation of Lebanon. The Palestinian resistance movement and the Lebanese nationalist movement inflicted heavy losses on the enemy forcing Israel to reconsider its policy, redeploy its forces, and withdraw from some Lebanese areas. We carried out activities on the international and regional levels. Conferences were held in Nicaragua, Tanzania, Kuala Lumpur, and Geneva. In Geneva, an international conference on the Palestinian problem was held with the participation of 137 states. It was a successful conference and it issued the well known Geneva declaration. We held contacts with many friends and numerous states to exchange viewpoints and obtain these states' backing and support

for the Palestinian people and their just cause. Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] visited a number of countries and the PLO institutions and the PLO Executive Committee held a number of meetings to deal with our special position in Lebanon, the Lebanese situation, and the Arab relations. We attended the nonaligned conference in New Delhi as well as many other meetings.

Question: The PLO forces in Tripoli, Lebanon, are currently passing through difficult circumstances. Abu 'Ammar has visited these forces. Reports speak of a possible military confrontation between the PLO forces and the Syrian forces in the area. What are your views on these reports and your evaluation of the Palestinian forces' situation in Tripoli?

We are completely avoiding any confrontation with the Syrian forces. We will not allow ourselves to confront the Syrian forces because we are anxious not to get involved in Arab disputes or increase our differences with any Arab country. We are trying to have good relations with all the Arab regimes. This depends on this regime's stand on the Palestinian revolution. I hope that there will not be clashes between us and the Syrian forces in the Tripoli area. In any case this will not happen because, as I told you, we are anxious not to clash with any Arab side or army. On the contrary, we try to increase our cooperation with these armies so that we may stand side by side and hand in hand in the face of the great challenge and the forces of invasion, which are Israel's forces. Our position in Tripoli is good. We are ready to talk with the future nationalist government in Lebanon concerning the fate of these forces and what their position will be in the near future when a national Lebanese government is formed--a government that is able to control Lebanon after Israel's complete withdrawal. There is an agreement between us and Lebanon. The future Lebanese national government must negotiate with us to define our future relations with a fraternal, unified, and sovereign Lebanon.

Question: How do you evaluate the PLO's relations with the Syrian Government, particularly with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, in the wake of the mutiny that has taken place inside and outside the Fatah movement's ranks in Al-Biqa'?

Answer: Undoubtedly, there are some differences between us and Syria, and we know that Syria supports the mutiny and the dissension movement. This is one of the causes of the differences between us and Syria. We have asked many friends and brothers in this world to use their good offices with the Syrian authorities to settle many problems through calm dialogue and political action. Actually, we have achieved some progress in this field, and the mediation efforts are still taking place. We are also still exerting efforts to reach an agreement with the Syrians in order to confront the Zionist forces. We must reinforce our forces and our common stands to evacuate the Israelis from the Lebanese territory and the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. Therefore, all efforts, not only the Syrian, Palestinian, and Lebanese efforts, but also the Arab efforts must unite, and they must settle their differences in order to face the big challenges which threaten Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan and other Arab territories.

Question: In the United States, they say that the PLO is now facing an exposed Syrian challenge which is more serious than the Israeli challenge, and that Syrian support for the mutiny against Yasir 'Arafat's leadership means that Syria seeks to liquidate the Palestinian leadership to expropriate the Palestinian card in order to facilitate the bartering process with the United States. What is your comment on this dictum?

Answer: This is erroneous logic and we must not accept it. If there are differences between us and our brothers, then we must resort to dialogue to settle these differences. This is not the first time a difference has taken place between us and an Arab state; in fact, this has been the nature of our march for more than 20 years. The main enemy is Israel and the hostile U.S. stand is the one which threatens our interests, entity, and the PLO. Moreover, the United States is the one which seeks to liquidate the PLO; otherwise, Israel would not have attacked Lebanon to expel the Palestinians. If there are differences with Syria or with any Arab country, then these differences must be settled peacefully, removed from clashes. The PNC has said that our relations with Syria are strategic ones and that we must safeguard these relations despite all the Syrian stands, because we proceed from a pan-Arab and revolutionary stand, and therefore, we must not make mistakes on strategic issues.

Question: In Washington, press reports say that there is a Syrian-U.S. agreement or understanding on the liquidation of the Palestinian card or the Palestinian question by Syria's hand and on the possibility of bartering with the United States on this card. Please forgive my insistence on this question, because the status of Palestinian-Syrian relations is in need of a Palestinian official such as you to shed light on these relations at present?

Answer: I do not believe that Syria agrees with the United States to liquidate the Palestinian question and we must not accept this. If there are differences between us and Syria, then we must settle these differences through all possible means and through a calm dialogue with the Syrians. Yes, there are some differences, but we must not imagine that there is an agreement between Syria and the United States to liquidate the Palestinian question. We must be sincere and faithful to history, recording what is right in accordance with our political stands which have been approved by the PNC in its recent session in Algiers.

Question: Recently, I read a statement made by Yasir 'Arafat which says that the possibilities of mediation between Syria and the PLO have reached an end. What are the possibilities of mediation at present?

Answer: At the beginning I said that we will exert all possible efforts to reach an agreement with Syria. Undoubtedly, we have exerted and are still exerting efforts to reach such an agreement. We must do all that we can to achieve this and we must assume our duties. Also we must not stand before history as being responsible for any possible mistake. Let others make mistakes. We as a Palestinian and Arab revolution must settle our differences with our brothers to reach an agreement, because the urgent as well as the strategic needs necessitates such an agreement.

Question: What are your comments on restoring national detente and reconciliation in Lebanon among all the parties concerned without taking into consideration the presence of about half a million Palestinians in Lebanon? Nobody has said anything about them, their rights, future, and fate.

Answer: Despite all that has happened, the parties concerned cannot ignore the Palestinian cause and people. We are there and nobody can ignore this fact. This issue will be raised in due course. What concerns us is that the Lebanese sides should reach national reconciliation because if this is reached our rights will be guaranteed through this national reconciliation. We are confident that the progressive and national movement will carry out this task. In Lebanon we have allies who are anxious that the Palestinian people obtain their rights and live in peace, and that the PLO be given the necessary assistance within the limits imposed by the Lebanese circumstances.

Question: Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese National Salvation Front and of the Druze, has criticized Yasir 'Arafat. His statement, which appeared in the NEW YORK TIMES, says that 'Arafat, who says that the PLO forces fought in the Lebanese mountain battles at the side of Junblatt's forces, is trying to foil attempts at national reconciliation. What do you say to that?

Answer: We extend political and military support to the Lebanese nationalist movement. This is clear and is known in the Arab circles in general and the Lebanese circles in particular. It may be said that the Palestinian forces are not taking part in this war. Yes, the war is a Lebanese war and the responsibility falls on the nationalist Lebanese war and the responsibility falls on the nationalist Lebanese brothers. However, it is our duty to extend material, political, and military support to them as well as support in the media. If you ask the nationalist forces they will give you the answer. Walid Junblatt and the nationalist movement are aware of this. However, we do not want to intervene in the Lebanese war because we are outside this war. This is the duty of the Lebanese nationalist movement and we do not want to do something that harms the Lebanese nationalist movement. It is their battle and not ours. It is our duty and obligation to back and support this movement.

Question: There are renewed attempts to revive work on last year's Reagan plan for a solution to the Palestinian problem. This appeared a few days ago during talks between President Reagan and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. What do you say to that?

Answer: Despite the Arab weakness and the rife Arab differences, the Palestinian cause remains an Arab cause. No Arab regime can renounce this cause even though some regimes are inactive in their support for this cause of their efforts to promote it. The United States cannot separate the Palestinian cause from the Arab nation or erase it from the Arab conscience because the Arab people consider it a central, basic issue. If this problem is not resolved, tension and the causes for war will remain in the region. We have repeatedly announced that we reject the Reagan plan because it is aimed at containing the cause and absorbing the Arab anger against Israel and its invasion of Lebanon. The plan is also aimed at completing the Camp David links to liquidate

the Palestinian cause. We have rejected this plan. The Arab submitted the Fes plan which is the minimum basis for the Arab political moves. We cannot accept less than this. In fact this is the current Arab policy at this juncture.

Question: What are your comments on choosing Shamir as Begin's successor? What are your expectations concerning the region's situation?

Answer: Let Begin go to hell. This is very good news because Begin was not only a cause of tension but also of wars against the Palestinian people and the peoples in the region. Undoubtedly, the steadfastness of our people and the Lebanese nationalist forces in Beirut and Lebanon have defeated this rabid campaign and foiled the occupation of Lebanon. Begin went away because of this frustration. Differences in Israel also began as a result of the Israeli campaign against Lebanon. We expect more divisions in Israel as a result of this. Facts have shown that steadfastness and confrontation of the Israeli enemy foils the enemy's political and military aims. This is what happened in Lebanon.

CSO: 4400/20

ADMA-OPEC COMPANY DRILLS DEEPEST OFFSHORE WELL

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 22 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

THE Adma-Opec has set a drilling record by going to a depth of 17,600 feet says its in-house magazine 'Adma-News'. The record was in the GhaSha-7 well in the Khuff field offshore Abu Dhabi.

The rig belonged to National Drilling Company, which has been under contract to Adma-Opco since May last year. The well was spudded in December last year and took 141 days going at an average of 125 feet per day.

The deepest well, also holds other records. The previous drilling time record was 197 days when the well 'ZL 182' was drilled to a depth of 17,370 feet, and the speed record was held by the well 'US 116' which was 100 feet per day.

Substantial experience has been gained out of the drilling, the magazine said. Advanced methods were used in the turbo drilling, casing, cementing and mud logging. Both diamond and conventional bits were used in the well without problems.

A major consideration throughout was safety. The particular danger of offshore drilling is gas poisoning, specially from hydrogen sulphide. At times the gas level reached 600 parts per million parts of air, which can be fatal. But the new air loop breathing

device the team used, as well as the training of the personnel, averted any poisoning.

Billionth barrel

Meanwhile, Adma-Opco produced the billionth barrel of crude last month after a new system of computing was introduced in January 1977, it has taken the company almost 5.8 years to reach the billion mark.

In January 1977, the co-ordination operations and projects division took over all computing operations regarding oil production under a new agreement signed in April of the same year.

The company, however, reached its peak production during the following year when its production accounted for more than half a million barrels per day.

According to 'Adma News', total crude oil liftings from Umm Shaif last month accounted for about 5.7 million barrels while Zakkum accounted for 2.2 million barrels.

Mr Ahmed Azouqa, controller of the oil movements operations unit, in a statement, disclosed that during the last five years Umm Shaif oil accounted for 575 million barrels (76.3 million tonnes), while correspondingly the exports from Zakkum reached 425 million barrels (55.3 million tonnes).

CSO: 4400/31

ABU DHABI BANK SHOWS RECORD PROFITS

Dubayy KHALEEL TIMES in English 23 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

THE net profits of the National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD) increased by 131 per cent in 1982 over the figure of 1981, the bank's annual report for 1982 released in Abu Dhabi said.

The record profits, the report said, had been made possible by the bank's high liquidity position reflected in an average loans-to-deposits ratio of only 28 per cent during the year with available capital funds of Dh 1.8 billion.

At the end of 1982 the bank's net profits were Dh 198.1 million compared with the 85.8 million in 1981.

The bank's Chairman, Mr Mohammed Habrout, in a report to the share-holders said the resultant growth of Dh 112.3 million had been achieved in spite of the difficulties faced by the banking industry across the world.

He said that NBAD had achieved a major improvement in its financial position both at home and abroad, retaining its position as the largest of the 51 banks operating in the UAE and one of the leading banks in the Arab world.

The bank's consolidated assets, including loans and balances in other banks totalled Dh 23.5 billion in 1982,

against Dh 22.7 billion in 1981.

The annual report said the growth rate of 3.4 per cent was lower than that of 1981 due to a cautious policy of assets diversification adopted by the bank in view of the adverse economic conditions prevailing in the industry.

Customer deposits in 1982 reached a record at Dh 15.7 billion, approximately Dh 1 billion or 7 per cent higher than 1981. While all types of deposits grew remarkably, the highest growth (141 per cent above 1981 levels) was achieved by UAE Dirham Certificates of Deposits (CDs) pioneered by the bank.

Credit advanced by the bank grew by an average of 18 per cent in 1982, providing evidence of the bank's ability to meet local and international market demands successfully.

Computerisation

In response to the rapidly changing nature of the banking industry the NBAD started introducing a comprehensive computerisation scheme to enable the modernisation of its banking services.

An advanced programme to link the bank's domestic branches with a computer centre is already on-line and a feasibility study is underway for

establishing a 'retail teller system' at NBAD's domestic branches.

NBAD has also become the first among the locally incorporated banks to introduce 'customer access modules', an advanced computerised system which enables prime customers to receive up-to-date information on their account movements and operations directly in their own offices.

New branches

During the year, NBAD continued to enhance its presence domestically and internationally, the bank's annual report added.

In the UAE the new Abu Dhabi Corniche and the Zirku Island branches were opened. Abroad, the bank opened a branch and an 'Asian Currency Unit' in Singapore and a representative office in Tokyo.

As part of NBAD's strategic marketing policy to compete aggressively with domestic and foreign banks at home and abroad, a 'corporate marketing department' in the bank's head office in Abu Dhabi, became operational during 1982.

The NBAD, which in 1982 accounted for 25 per cent of the total banking business in the UAE, has a network of 35 branches in the country and is represented by 17 units in 10 other countries.—WAM

PIPELINE PROJECT BEGUN BETWEEN EMIRATES

Dubayy KHALEEF TIMES in English 2 Oct 83 p 1

[Text]

THE initial phase of a massive project to use locally produced natural gas instead of oil for power generation in the northern emirates will be completed in the first half of next year with the laying of 230km of pipeline across five emirates.

Work has just started on the project which will utilise gas, now being flared at the Saaja field, by linking Sharjah's onshore field to Ras Al Khaimah, Fujairah, Umm Al Quwain and Ajman.

A 36 million dollars contract awarded to Dodsai GmbH of Dusseldorf, a wholly Indian-owned subsidiary of Dodsai Private Ltd of Bombay, also envisages the erection of compressor stations and pipeline feeders for Qidfa, Ajman, Galilah, Umm Al Quwain and Dhaid power stations as well as to Gulf Cement Company and Union Cement Company.

The company was awarded the project in a joint bid with Eastern Contracting of Sharjah.

Two of the four camps from which work is to be carried out have already been set up. The pipeline contract will be one of the tightest in schedule ever undertaken in the UAE, but a Dodsai spokesman said he was confident it would be completed on schedule.

In all, 10 firms, including some prestigious names in the world construction industry, were prequalified for the project and eight of these bid for the job. Apart from Dodsai, one other company made a bid in association with a local firm.

Dodsai, which has been in the UAE since 1968, earlier worked on two major oil-related projects, the expansion of Umm Al Nar refinery and the construction of Ruwais refinery, in the second project, in association with another West German company.

In banking and construction industry circles, the contract had aroused a lot of interest because, in a departure from usual practice, the contractor had been asked to raise funds for the project.

A 36 million dollars syndicated loan has been raised for Dodsai, lead-managed by State Bank of India's off-shore banking unit in Bahrain and the National Bank of Bahrain.

The loan, 9/16 per cent over Libor, will have a four-year tenure, one year for utilisation and three for repayment in half-yearly instalments of six million dollars each.

Other participating banks are

Grindlays International, Credit Commerciale de France, Commercial Bank of Dubai, BAI and Bahrain Middle East Bank.

A formal signing ceremony for the loan is scheduled to take place in about 10 days, Mr B. Khosla, State Bank's manager in Bahrain told Khaleef Times.

The new arrangement is understood to be a sequel to the Emirates General Petroleum Corporation's (EGPC) decision some months ago to abandon a 190 million dollars syndication for petroleum development in the northern emirates.

The loan for which groups of rival banks had bid very hard was abandoned because EGPC's constitution did not allow it to borrow from institutions where the federal government did not have a shareholding.

CSO: 4400/24

ADNOC TO PRODUCE LNG FROM UMM SAYF

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 1 Oct 83 p 3

[Text] The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company is understood to be making a new arrangement to liquefy natural gas coming out of the Umm Saif field.

According to informed sources natural gas could soon become a major source of income for the oil producing countries suffering from glut in the oil market. They also expect the income from liquid natural gas to offset the losses being incurred due to falling oil revenues.

A report in Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Review said the overall capacity of Adgas would be increased by early next year to 250 million cubic feet of liquefied gas daily.

The production of the gas field, discovered in 1979, is expected to increase substantially by the end of this year. The quality of gas being produced from this new field is described as excellent by experts who say it will find a lucrative market.

Adnoc has been particularly successful in gas exploration with recent discoveries in Buhasa and Khuff regions. In Buhasa, a new gasfield was discovered at a depth of nearly 17,000 feet and the drilling in Bab has also yielded encouraging results.

At the end of last year, the total production of Adgas stood at a little more than half a million tons. It is expected to rise up to one million tons by the end of this year. The Adgas is also expected to produce 2.4 million tons of liquefied natural gas annually a few years later.

Besides an increase in gas production, the oil refining capacity in the country will also go up with the completion of the 300-million-dollar expansion project at Umm Al Nar.

CSO: 4400/24

WORK STARTS ON SUBMARINE CABLE

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 29 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by Ahmed Hassan]

[Text]

WORK started yesterday to lay Abu Dhabi shore end of a submarine cable linking the UAE and Qatar and Bahrain.

The project estimated to cost 47 million dollars, is expected to be completed by May next year.

Work had already completed on laying of shore ends in Bahrain and Qatar early this month.

In Abu Dhabi, a barge will lay the cable up to a distance of 11 kilometres offshore. The remaining job will be completed by a British Telecommunication ship specially modified to execute the project.

Mr Abdulla Al Mahrazi, director of Abu Dhabi Emirtel and a number of telecommunications experts, technicians and representatives of foreign companies implementing the project, were present on the occasion.

Mr Ali Salem Al Owais, general manager of Emirtel, in an interview with Khaleej Times yesterday, said the cable would provide 1200 channels enabling 200 people in the three countries to talk to each other at one time.

He said the 600-kilometre long cable line, one of the most modern in the world would replace the system installed more than a decade ago.

The Emirtel chief said that the un-precedented progress made in the telecommunications sector in the UAE, can be gauged from the fact that when huge saucer like telecommunication antennas were installed near Dubai barely 10 years ago, it was assured that the system would be adequate for a long time to come. But in a short span of 10 years, the UAE had proved wrong all those assumptions.

Mr Owais said that very shortly, the UAE be linked with Pakistan also with a submarine cable that would be the first of its kind in the whole of the Indian Ocean.

He said that the UAE-Pakistan cable project to be started soon, would take more than two years for completion. A similar arrangement with India was being worked out for which meeting would be convened in Bombay, sometimes at the end of this year. These projects would remove telecommunications traffic congestion between the Gulf and the Sub-continent.

Mr Owais said the cost of the calls would also be considerably reduced as a result of these projects. He however clarified that the cables would provide telephone and telex links and not a TV transmission facility.

Turning to the development of Arabsat, Mr Owais said, that very

soon a contract would be awarded to build an earth satellite station around Dhaid to complement the services provide by Arabsat. He said the number of channels could be expanded through Arabsat to meet the growing demand. He said that the earth satellite station would be completed in approximately 12 to 18 months and was estimated to cost about Dh 20 million.

The satellite will link the UAE with the rest of the Arab world and will contribute substantially towards bringing the Gulf states closer to the other Arab countries, specially those in Africa, he said.

The Emirtel chief said, that already Kuwait in the Gulf and India in South Asia are connected with a number of other countries. Through both the points, the traffic could be directed to any side. For example, the Madras-Penang cable, in this context, could enable the Gulf countries to link up with South-East Asia. Similarly Kuwait is linked with several Arab states in the north. The cable connection would enable the UAE to have direct links with these countries, through Kuwait.

DUBAI PROVIDES HOUSING TO NATIONALS

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 17 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by Latheef Farook]

[Text]

UNDER the instructions and guidance of His Highness Shaikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the emirate of Dubai is going ahead with its generous scheme of providing modern housing facilities to nationals.

According to Mr Qasim Sultan, Acting Director of Dubai Municipality, the multi-million-dirham welfare scheme is being implemented on a massive scale as part of an overall programme aimed at providing basic amenities, to nationals, and raising their general standard of living.

The importance attached by the Dubai government to these activities was manifested by the establishment of a special department in the municipality to deal with all matters pertaining to providing land and houses. The Municipal Council set up a special division in 1980 and as the scheme expanded, a separate department was also founded to provide all assistance to deserving nationals, Mr Sultan added.

Requests from citizens who want government land to construct houses, need to expand existing structures, or seek new houses, are made to this department which, in turn, opens a file in the name of each applicant and preserves all records from the time an application is submitted. So far, 10,000 files are maintained by the department. The department also

obtains all required details about an applicant, from relevant sections to ensure against duplication of a grant.

The applications are subsequently submitted for consideration and decision to the Municipal Council's general purposes committee which meets weekly. In one sitting, pointed out Mr Muhsin Faheem, head of the low-cost housing department, the general purposes committee finalises between 25 to 35 cases.

Thousands of new houses, housing facilities, and plots of land have been provided in keeping with the size of an applicants' family, Mr Sultan said. For instance a family with more than 10 members is granted 15,000 sq. ft. land and for one with less than 10 members the grant is limited to 10,000 sq. ft.

Financial assistance

Similarly, financial assistance ranging from Dh 150,000 to Dh 200,000 is given according to the size of a family, he said.

These facilities are also extended to locals who have passed out as graduates from Al Ain University or any other university from Arab or non-Arab countries.

Those who seek government assistance to put up houses, Mr Sultan explained, belong to various categories. Some ask for new houses as they do not have reasonably good houses, while others only seek assistance to add a few rooms or extend existing buildings. Some have land but do not have money to put up a house,

and others with private land seek government land. Applicants who have land but seek cash to build houses are not provided with cash. Instead, the department arranges with an approved contractor to build the necessary houses for them. The general purposes committee studies each case and provides facilities according to what an applicant deserves.

During last year alone the department built about 584 low-cost houses for nationals including 148 in Hor Al Anz, 142 in Ghusais, 163 in Rashidiya, 50 in Sifa, 21 in Al Wasl and 60 in other areas. In both Deira and Bur Dubai, 54 applicants were provided with assistance to expand their existing structures, 22 with land and 29 were given financial assistance and 115 were granted both land and financial assistance, Mr Sultan said.

In Jumeirah, 172 low-cost houses were distributed among citizens while 41 were provided with facilities for expanding their houses and 223 were given land and financial assistance.

The general purposes committee has set up a sub-committee to visit all applicants in Jumeirah. The committee, comprising Mr Saeed Al Kindi, Mr Obaid Al Tayer, Mr Abdullah Shafar, Col. Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Mr Abdulla Mazroui and Mr Muhsin Faheem visited the area before making their recommendations.

Since August 21 the committee has approved 102 applications in Bur Dubai and Deira, and this includes 17 low-cost houses, 23 additional structures and land and finance for 62 nationals, while in Jumeirah the total number approved was 30.

In all, more than 1200 houses were built and distributed to people last year, Mr Sultan said.

BRIEFS

UAE SOCIAL AID BUDGET--A sum of Dh 500 million has been allocated for social grants in the current year's budget of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The ministry's total budget is Dh 606.38 million as compared to Dh 635.73 million last year, showing a decrease of more than Dh 29 million. Of the total, Dh 535.58 million has been allocated for the ministry's requirements of commodities and services, running expenses, social grants, assistance for cooperative societies, public interest associations and the ministry's contribution to international organisations. Dh 68.4 million has been allocated for wages, increments, allowances, and other benefits to employees. Dh 2.5 million has been earmarked for fixed assets. The ministry's revenue this year is expected to be around Dh 16.42 million as against Dh 16.11 million last year. The revenue will be transferred to the Ministry of Finance and Industry. [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 8 Sep 83 p 3]

ELECTRICITY PROJECT BEGINS--One of the major projects designed to provide electricity to both Abu Dhabi and Al Ain has again been given go-ahead by the water and electricity department of Abu Dhabi. The project, which had been shelved along with the ambitious Tawala project earlier, is expected to provide about 100 megawatts of electricity to the emirate. According to informed sources most of the power to be produced under the project is to be consumed in Al Ain. Initially, the Tawala project had been planned as the country's largest power generating project which would have met the entire needs of the region up to the end of the century. It was also envisaged that the project would desalinate enough water to meet the requirement of vast agricultural projects around Al Ain and Liwa. It is indicated that the Bani Yas Project, which was to have been completed around July last year, was extended due to changes in the plan. Later, the execution of the project was postponed. It is now believed, that the British company John Brown Engineering has been granted 30 million sterling by the Abu Dhabi government to execute the Bani Yas project. It is reported that altogether four turbines will be installed at Bani Yas and their total generating capacity will be nearly 100 megawatts. According to Abu Dhabi Chamber's review the project would substantially improve the distribution network which will be carried out with 220 KV lines. [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 2 Oct 83 p 1]

CSO: 4400/24

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO UAE--Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has issued a decree of the presidium of the Supreme People's Council appointing brother Ahmad 'Awad Haydar ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the UAE.
[Summary] [GF100635 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Oct 83 GF]

CSO: 4400/28

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

TRADE PROTOCOL WITH ETHIOPIA--A trade exchange protocol was signed at the Ministry of Economy and Industry on 11 October between our country and Ethiopia. According to the protocol, the articles of the agreement which was signed by the two countries 3 years ago will be implemented. The protocol also underscores the two countries' desire to deepen trade and economic relations and activate bilateral trade. It was signed on the YAR side by Muhammad Hizam al-Shuhati, minister of economy and industry, and on the Ethiopian side by Chekol Wollie, minister of external trade. [Excerpt] [GF110634 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Oct 83 GF]

AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH SOMALIA--An agreement for agricultural, economic and trade cooperation has been signed at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries between the YAR and Somalia. On the YAR side, it was signed by Dr Ahmad al-Hamdani, minister of agriculture and fisheries, and on the Somali side by Bile Rafle Gulaid, minister of agriculture. Officials at the YAR Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Somali ambassador in San'a' and a representative of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry attended the ceremony. [Text] [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Oct 83 GF]

POWER PLANT PROJECT--North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Salah inaugurated the first stage of an electric power plant located at the Red Sea port of Ras Khetib, 240 kilometres south of the capital Sanaa. Work on the first phase was completed last week and is part of a \$290 million project for an electricity plant comprising five generating units with a production capacity of 33 Megawatts each. The plant is being built by Italian contractors Ansaldo Impiante and is being financed by loans from Japan, the World Bank, Arab funds and soft loans from Western countries at low interest rates over a period for 50 years. When completed, the plan will provide electricity for agriculture and industry as well as for rural areas throughout North Yemen. The full plant should be finished in five years' times. [Text] [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 41, 10 Oct 83 p 12]

CSO: 4400/27

EMPLOYMENT OF NATIONAL EXPERTS A POLICY DECISION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Sep 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator and Minister for Communications Rear Admiral M. A. Khan said in Dhaka on Saturday the Government has taken a policy decision to employ Bangladesh experts in preference to foreign experts, to render technical assistance for socio-economic development programmes, reports BSS.

The DCMLA said the Government has consistently been emphasising self-reliance in all spheres of national pride, better life-style for the people and socio-economic stability which are some of the objectives of the self-reliance policy of the Government he added.

Rear Admiral Khan was addressing the concluding session of the annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Project Management Institute in Dhaka on Saturday night.

The DCMLA said the government has taken up a comprehensive plan for human resource development with particular attention to the management. Describing management as an "uphill task", he urged the professional organisations to come up to supplement the government efforts to improve efficiency in the public service system.

Rear Admiral Khan termed the nation as considerably "deficient in management" and said management of government business has also been found inadequate in order to deliver services to the people.

He said the government has reorganised the ministries, departments, autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies and other public service organisations and delegated authority to various levels of decision-making--"we have decentralised the functions of the government down to the upazila level," he added.

Our efforts for betterment of the life style of the people are stumbling on a single rock time and again the Communication Minister said indicating lack of proper management in implementing socio-economic development projects.

The function presided over by the Chairman of the BPMI Mohammad Serajuddin awarded fellowships of the BPMI to Dr. Alimullah Khan for project management and Mr Azizul Hoque for rural development. The DCMLA described the work of BPMI as a "lead in recognising services of outstanding personalities of the country."

Finance and Planning Minister Mr A. M. A. Muhith was also present on the occasion.

CSO: 4600/1066

REPORT ON BNP-SATTAR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 25 Sep 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Speakers at the extended meeting of the central executive committee of BNP (Sattar) yesterday called upon the party workers to make successful the programme taken on the basis of the five-point demand for establishment of democracy and political rights in the country.

They opined that it would not be possible to restore the rights of the people without nation wide mass movement.

Presided over by Begum Khaleda Zia, Senior Vice President of the party, the meeting held at the city BNP office at Yusuf Market was also attended by district, thana and mass front leaders other than the former Jatiya Sangsad members and the ex-ministers.

But President of the party Justice Abdus Sattar and Secretary Gen. Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury were absent as both of them are sick. However, both of them sent written messages. Justice Sattar in his message called upon the party workers to work unitedly and told them that he would narrate in an appropriate time how his government lost power.

Begum Khaleda Zia in her speech said, foreign powers are active in Bangladesh and they do not want to see Bangladesh as democratic and self-reliant.

She called upon the patriotic forces who believe in Bangladeshi nationalism to unite and build movement with a view to preserving independence and sovereignty and establishing democracy and fundamental rights.

Resolutions

The BNP (Sattar) in the meeting adopted a package of resolutions relating to various political, economic and other national issues. The party in a resolution called upon the government to revive the suspended 1982 constitution, maintain the democratic system of governance through transfer of power to the President elected in 1981 and hold parliamentary election by February 18 in 1984.

The Party also demanded that the Defence Forces be kept above controversy and national defence system strengthened further.

In another resolution the Party described the 18-point programme as a political programme and termed the 18-point Implementation Council and related bodies undemocratic. It demanded an end to what it called formation of a political party through the government officers.

The party in a resolution supported the programme taken up in order to build up national unity on the basis of 5 point charter of demands and congratulated those political parties which have reached a consensus on the question of the charter.

It also expressed its greetings to different political parties for showing their keen interest for building up a mass movement to restore democracy in the country.

The party welcomed the decision to observe Demand Day on September 30 and called upon its units and wings to make the day a success.

The party denounced the use of an organisation of the ruling quarters' lackeys at different educational institutions including the Dhaka University and demanded an end to unleashing of terror at the campus through the organisation.

It further demanded annulment of the educational policy maintenance of the autonomous status of the universities and trial of those who were responsible for killing of the students on February 14 and 15.

It also demanded unrestricted trade union activities, release of all political prisoners, freedom of press, freedom of speech, restoration of all fundamental rights, independence of judiciary and to ensure fair prices of the agricultural produces and reduce prices of agricultural inputs and implements.

The party prayed for the recovery of its leaders including Justice Abdus Sattar and B. Choudhury.

CSO: 4600/1077

REPORT ON 11 SEP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] The Council of Ministers which met Sunday under the Chairmanship of the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen. H. M. Ershad decided to promulgate a new ordinance known as the Cruelty to Women (Deterrent Punishment) Ordinance 1983 for deterrent punishment for cruelty to women reports BSS.

The ordinance provides for severe punishment with transportation for life or rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to 14 years and fine for offences for kidnapping or abducting of women of any age for unlawful or immoral purposes and for trafficking in women with the intent to employ or use such women for prostitution or illicit intercourse or for any immoral purpose. The ordinance also provides for death penalty or transportation for life or rigorous imprisonment extending up to 14 years and also fine for causing death or grievous hurt to for dowry.

The ordinance also provides death penalty or transportation for life as well as fine for causing death in committing rape. The punishment prescribed for attempts to cause death or causing grievous hurt in committing rape is transportation for life or rigorous imprisonment extending up to 14 years as well as fine. An abetter also is punishable for similar offences.

The Council also decided to set up a new company by the name Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited to carry on business as recruiting agents for employment of Bangladeshis abroad and for export of manpower in any part of the world and to project the image of Bangladesh as a reliable source with quality manpower by means of regular publicity and advertisement in the international newspapers.

The authorised share capital of the company will be Taka 3 (three) crore divided into 300,000 shares each of Taka 100. The paid up capital will be Taka 1 (one) crore of which government will subscribe 51 per cent and the remaining 49 per cent by the public. The Board of Directors will consist of 7 (seven) members 4 (four) nominated by the government, 3 (three) elected by other share-holders. The Managing Director will be nominated by the government and he will be the chief executive of the company.

The company will also undertake effective employment promotion campaign in the countries requiring manpower secure job from overseas firms working in the Middle East and procure and process demand from foreign governments as well as other agencies.

The company will also arrange trade-tests medical tests tickets and other facilities for persons selected for foreign employment and charge fees as may be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time. The company will motivate and mobilise Bangladeshi citizens living abroad for investment in productive pursuits in Bangladesh and set up joint ventures in industrial and commercial fields in and outside Bangladesh.

CSO: 4600/1068

HASINA'S AWAMI LEAGUE EXPELS COMMITTEE MEMBER

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] The Central Working Committee of the Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina) in a resolution adopted in its two-day meeting which concluded on Sunday evening expelled Mr Imtiazuddin Ahmed a member of the party's national committee. The decision was taken on the basis of the evidence given in the meeting by the party chief Sheikh Hasina. The charge against him was of anti-party activity. Mr. S. M. Babar Ali, Secretary of the Khulna unit of the party will be summoned to the next meeting of the party working committee on October 9 to explain his conduct on the same charge.

It is learnt that Mr. M. A. Jalil (Rajshahi) a member of the party working committee raised the issue in the meeting. Though there was pressure for issuing show cause notice on Mr. Ahmed before expulsion the committee took the decision without show cause on the basis of the evidence by party chief.

It is alleged that when party chief Sheikh Hasina was in custody in February Mr. Imtiazuddin Ahmed, a close associate of Mr. Tofayel Ahmed party's organising Secretary went to meet party chief at 9 p.m. at the house where she was in custody. Mr. Ahmed tried to obtain signature from the party chief which would have gone in favour of the Government it is alleged. The statement related to the February student movement. It is also alleged that Mr. Ahmed told party chief that Mrs. Zohra Tajuddin and Major (Retd.) Khalilur Rahman and two other leaders knew about the move.

It is further learnt that action against Mr. Imtiazuddin was one of the conditions set by (?Razzak) faction of the party for unity. Mr. Imtiazuddin Ahmed, a former canteen contractor of erstwhile Iqbal Hall now renamed as Zahurul Huq Hall is now a shrimp exporter and he hails from Noakhali.

CSO: 4600/1068

AMBASSADOR TO UN SPEAKS AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Sep 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] New York, Sept. 20--Ambassador Farooq Sobhan has called upon the developed countries to demonstrate the necessary political will by agreeing to launch global negotiations in international economic cooperation for development, reports BSS.

He was speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 as its Chairman at the concluding session of the 37th UNGA which took place recently.

Ambassador Sobhan said that it was necessary more than ever before to re-establish confidence in the United Nations, in international economic cooperation and to create the conditions for progress and development to the advantage of the international community as a whole. The need of the hour is for bold decisions and far-sighted statesmanship, he stated.

He reiterated the firm belief of the Group of 77 in the continuing validity and usefulness of the global negotiations to ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to the global economic crisis. The Group of 77 believes that in view of the increasing disorder in the world economy and financial system, launching of global negotiations should be matter of highest and immediate priority for all countries, irrespective of their social system and levels of development, he said.

Ambassador Sobhan expressed regret that in spite of the pragmatic and flexible approach adopted by the Group of 77, global negotiations could not be launched even after a lapse of four years since the General Assembly gave mandate for such negotiations. He recounted the developments that took place during the Seventh Non-aligned Summit in New Delhi and the G-77 Ministerial meeting in Buenos Aires and called upon the developed countries to come up with corresponding response and engage in meaningful negotiations at the United Nations.

He asserted the views of the developing countries that signs of recovery in one or few developed economies do not provide a panacea for economic problems of the developing world.

The problems in the developing world are essentially the consequence of an inequitable international economic order which is clearly weighted heavily against the developing countries. The developing countries therefore, need a durable answer to the fundamental problems of high rates of interest, inflation, mounting deficits, problems of liquidity and balance of payments, protectionism and commodity prices and in other sectors of international economy.

Ambassador Sobhan stated that in the increasingly interdependent world, the political and economic stability of all countries, developed and developing alike are interlinked. He emphasised that the 38th General Assembly must address the task of launching of global negotiations with boldness, imagination and pragmatism and must produce concrete and tangible results.

Delegations from Greece, on behalf of the European Community, Bulgaria on behalf of the East European states, China, USA, Canada and Australia also spoke on the subject-matter of global negotiations and expressed readiness to continue further negotiations on the subject. The General Assembly decided to inscribe the question of launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development in the provisional agenda of the 38th UNGA session which begins today.

CSO: 4600/1072

CONFUSION NOTED IN ADMINISTRATION OF UPAZILLAS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Sep 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Jalal Nawaz]

[Text] Certain confusions and bottlenecks at different levels of upazilla administration are learnt to be creating hindrance to the smooth conduct of the administrative function.

Reports of bottlenecks at different levels of upazilla administration have been received by the concerned higher authorities from divisional, district and upazilla headquarters.

It is learnt that issuance of diverse directives from different authorities like the CMLA Secretariat, Cabinet Division, Establishment Division and Ministry of Local Governments and Rural Development from time to time created confusion about the functioning of the upazillas.

Some heads of divisional and district administration have sought to streamline the upazilla administration by defining jurisdiction of the administrative ministries and competent authorities.

A hitch between the 'nirbahi officers' and heads of various departments also created hindrance to smooth administration and development of upazillas.

The hitch developed due to anomalies in policy planning which has placed the service of the 'Nirbahi Officers' at the disposal of Upazilla Parishad and required them to be accountable to the respective parishad but their appointment, transfer, remuneration, promotion, discipline and drawing and disbursing authority were reserved to be controlled by the respective departments.

As the main keys of their service remained with their departments the officers at the departments run the upa-zilla administration bypassing the 'Nirbahi Officer' who is the administrative head and the man on the spot.

Their coordination between them is limited to only attending a coordination meeting from time to time.

The prevailing "free for all" situation has weakened coordination and loosened the grip of parishad on the overall upa-zilla administration.

According to another source, administration of a number of upa-zillas could not start functioning due to lack of accommodation for officials and other relevant facilities although the government decided to complete upgradation of thanas by November this year.

Meanwhile, 197 top level officials ranging from joint secretaries to secretary and chairmen of different corporations, have been asked by the government to visit their scheduled upa-zillas thrice a year for supervising and streamlining the new administration.

Fifty per cent of the funds allocated for each upa-zilla has already been disbursed by the government to making the administration effective without any delay.

It is recalled that with the upgradation of 50 upazillas recently a total of 360 upazillas have been upgraded in phases so far. Of the 360 upazillas, 100 which were upgraded in the first and the second phases have been allocated Tk. 50 lakh each and the rest Tk. 25 lakhs each.

CSO: 4600/1075

LARGE FERTILIZER EXPORTS TO INDIA, NEPAL PLANNED

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 29 Sep 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Government has decided to export 40,000 tons of urea fertilizser worth Taka 15 crore shortly to Nepal and India.

Under the decision taken at a high level meeting in Dhaka recently, 30,000 tons of fertilizer would be exported to Nepal and 10,000 tons to India.

A Nepalese delegation comprising high officials of Agriculture Ministry and Agriculture Inputs Corporation of Nepal will arrive in the capital on October 2 to negotiate the issue and enter into a deal with Bangladesh.

On the other hand, 10,000 tons of fertilizer would be initially exported to India under a trade protocol signed last year between the two countries in which Bangladesh committed to sale 50,000 tons of urea.

The decision to export fertilizer was taken in consideration of the fact that a "surplus in urea is expected to be achieved by December this year in the country".

A high official told NEW NATION that the fertilizer situation would be reviewed in January next. He said, if the situation continues to improve, the government may go for further export of fertilizer.

The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) has been assigned with the responsibility of exporting fertilizer to India while Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) will sell the item directly to Nepal.

Bangladesh exported 90,000 tons of fertilizer to Indonesia, China, Nepal and Burma last year. The annual domestic requirement this year has been estimated at seven lakh tons.

Zia Fertilizer Factory is expected to produce 3.60 lakh tons of urea by the year end while the Ghorasal and Fenchuganj fertilizer factories of the Chemical Industries Corporation will produce another 3.60 lakh tons.

On the contrary, the government has already imported 65,000 tons of fertilizer this year. But the import was made under a programme of grant from the donor countries and agencies.

The NEW NATION has learnt that the donors always discourage the government to go for export of fertilizer saying that if it is done they would stop providing any assistance or grant for importing importing fertilizer.

According to an official source, if fertilizer is not exported shortly, a large quantum of the item would be stockpiled forcing the fertilizer factories to go off production.

CSO: 4600/1081

BRIEFS

ISLAMIC AVIATION COUNCIL--Jeddah, Sept. 10--Bangladesh today joined the Islamic Council for Civil Aviation (ICCA), an affiliate of the Islamic Conference, established under a resolution of the third Islamic summit conference held in Taif in 1981, reports IINA. Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, Habib Chatti, and Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Permanent Representative to the OIC Mohammed Muhsin signed the agreement of the basic statute of ICCA at a ceremony held at the OIC headquarters here. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Sep 83 p 1]

DHAKA-SAUDI FARM VENTURE--The proposed Saudi Bangladesh Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company is expected to complete its organisational set up within a couple of months. The joint venture institution was agreed upon by the Finance Ministers of both the countries in the first meeting of the Joint Economic Commission. Meanwhile certain formalities like registration of the company nomination of directors are still to be finalised. According to a source the Board of Directors will comprise of six members, three from each country. The chairman of the Board of Directors is expected to be nominated by Saudi Arabia while the Deputy Chairman and Chief of executive has already been nominated by Bangladesh. Mr Al Husainy, former Industries Secretary, has been named for the post. The company will have an initial paid-up capital of 60 million US dollars to be shared equally by both the countries. The areas of investment will be identified by the company before it goes into operation, the source added. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Sep 83 p 1]

CREDIT AGREEMENTS SIGNED--Washington, Sept. 20--Bangladesh will receive a credit of 100 million US dollars from Ida for rural development project under an agreement signed here, reports BSS. Bangladesh Ambassador to US Mr. H. R. Chowdhury signed the agreement on September 16 for the development credit equivalent to million from Canada, dollar 10.5 million from UK and dollar 1.6 million from UNDP. The project will expand and strengthen the nation's system of agricultural cooperatives system made up of Thana Central Cooperative Association (TCCA) at the thana level and Krishi Samabaya Samity (KSS) at the village level including cooperatives of the rural landless, Bittyahen Samabaya Samity (BSS) and women's cooperatives, Mahila Samabaya Samity (MSS). The project is designed to expand the flow of services to rural cooperatives and increase availability of credits to

finance iter alia purchase of 30,000 shallow tubewells and 3000 low-lift one cusec pumps. The Ambassador also signed another development credit agreement for petroleum exploration promotion project. Under this agreement Bangladesh will receive dollar 23 million (SDR 21.4) from the International Development Association. The project supports the government's efforts to stimulate interest among foreign investors to resume petroleum exploration in the country. Both the Ida credit is for 50 years, including 10 years of grace. It carries no interest but has a small annual service charge (0.5 per cent on the undisbursed balances of the credit and 0.75 per cent on the disbursed balance). [Excerpt] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Sep 83 p 1]

AMBASSADOR TO BHUTAN--The Government has appointed Mr Mahbubul Alam, at present Director-General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Bangladesh Ambassador to Bhutan, an official announcement said in Dhaka on Saturday night, reports BSS. Born on February 5, 1936, Mr Alam obtained M.A. degree in Political Science from the University of Dhaka in 1957. He also studied International Relations at the same university. He obtained fellowship in journalism from the Commonwealth Press Union, London in 1963 and attended a special course at the Oxford University and was on attachment with the Guardian Manchester. On completion of his training abroad Mr Alam was appointed New Delhi-based overseas correspondent of "Dawn" newspaper. He was associated with journalism including management of newspapers and public relations for 21 years before his appointment as Press Secretary to the Prime Minister in 1972. Mr Alam joined the Bangladesh Times as Joint Editor in May 1974. He served as Counsellor (Press) in the High Commission of Bangladesh in London from September 1976 to August 1978 and was appointed Counsellor (Press) in the Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington in September 1978 where he continued to serve till his transfer to headquarters in 1980. He joined Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Director-General (External Publicity) in April 1980 and has been serving in the same capacity till the date. [Excerpt] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Sep 83 p 12]

CHHATRA DAL, JUBA DAL LEADERS--Sixteen leaders of Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Chhatra Dal and Juba Dal sued in connection with a clash at the mazar of President Ziaur Rahman on May 30 were acquitted of the charges on Wednesday. The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court after hearing acquitted all the 16 persons. The Chhatra Dal and Juba Dal leaders acquitted of the cases are: Saifur Rahman, Abul Kashem Chowdhury, Shah Ahmed Badal, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Habibullah, Jamal Sharif Hiru, Kazi Sagir Ahmed, Lutfur Rahman, Abdullah Chowdhury, Jahangir, Nurul Islam, Loqman, Niru, Bablu, Mohan and Prof. Majed. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 23 Sep 83 p 1]

NEW BRITISH ENVOY--Mr. T. G. Streeton, CMG, MBE has been appointed British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, it was officially announced in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS. Mr. Streeton will succeed Mr. Frank Mills who will be retiring from diplomatic service. Born in 1930, Mr. Streeton served British missions in Bonn, Bombay and Brussels. He was the head of Finance Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1979. Mr. Streeton was Assistant Under Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He is married. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 23 Sep 83 p 8]

FORMER MINISTER'S ARREST--Dhaka Cantonment thana police yesterday arrested former Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Lt. Col. (Retd) Akbar Hossalu. The former minister recently returned home from abroad. He was produced before the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate after arrest and sent to the Dhaka Central Jail. The court rejected a prayer for division facilities to the detenus in the jail. Lt Col (retd) Akbar was arrested following warrant of arrest by the Special Martial Law Tribunal No 2. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Sep 83 p 1]

KRISHAK LEAGUE EXPELLEES--Three leaders of Krishak League including its President Mr Mahiuddin Ahmed were expelled from the party yesterday. The central working committee at a meeting held at 23 Bangabandhu Avenue expelled the leaders for creating misunderstanding among the workers by acting against the ideals, interest and discipline of the organisation. Other expelled leaders are Rashed Mosharraf, Vice President and Prof. Abu Saeed, Joint Secretary of the party. In a resolution, the meeting with Vice-President Abdul Jabbar in the chair, termed the earlier meeting convened by Prof. Abu Saeed on September 23 as illegal as per Clause 13 (Ka) of the constitution. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 25 Sep 83 pp 1, 8]

AMBASSADOR TO QATAR--Government has appointed Mr. Khalequzzaman Chowdhury, at present Charge d'Affaires in the Embassy of Bangladesh, Doha as Bangladesh Ambassador to the State of Qatar, reports BSS. Born in December 1939, Mr. Chowdhury was commissioned in the erstwhile Pakistan army in 1959. He held various assignments in the army headquarters including the post of Deputy Director/Deputy Secretary in the President's Secretariat from 1970-72. On retirement from army in 1974 Mr. Chowdhury was senior executive in the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation until July 1976 when he was appointed First Secretary in the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Calcutta. He was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in September 1980 as Deputy Chief of Protocol. Mr. Chowdhury was appointed Counsellor/Charge d'Affaires in the Embassy of Bangladesh, Doha in August 1982 and was promoted to the rank of Minister CDA in November 1982. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 25 Sep 83 p 3]

ADB LOAN--The Asian Development Bank has approved a concessional loan of SDR 77.678 million (equivalent to \$82 million) for a Power Transmission and Distribution Project in Bangladesh, says a Press release. At present Bangladesh seeks to reduce its dependence on imported oil by increasing power generation through the use of natural gas abundantly available in the country's East Zone and transmitting surplus power to the West Zone (which has no locally available energy sources). To support the Government's effort for energy development, the Bank's Project is aimed at upgrading the voltage of the transmission line connecting the East and West Zones from 132 KV to 230 KV, and expanding the distribution network in the metropolitan and other coastal areas of Chittagong District to meet the loads forecast through 1990-1991. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Sep 83 p 1]

MOVEMENT AGAINST ALLIANCE--Mr. A.T.M. Rafiqul Islam, convener, Mia Shahid Hossain and Mr. Anisuzzaman Khokan, Joint Conveners of the central committee of Natun Bangla Jubo Sanghati in a joint statement issued to the Press on Wednesday said that the decision for a mass movement against those who have now exposed themselves under the garb of 22-party alliance to continue their political exploitation will be taken at the first extended meeting of the Sanghati. These elements have politically exploited the people for the last 12 years and have now left their party signboards to form the 22-party alliance, the statement added. The statement directed all the district, thana, union and ward committees of the party to intensify their organisational activities in preparation for the mass movement. The statement urged the patriotic people and the youth with good moral character to join the Sanghati. The statement viewed that the failure of political leadership during the last decade has resulted in the formation of nearly a hundred signboard-based parties and the people have lost confidence in the politicians. Controversy over our national identity, form of government, economic policy and other fundamental issues still continuing, the statement added. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Sep 83 pp 1, 8]

TIES WITH TRINIDAD, TOBAGO--The governments of Bangladesh and Trinidad and Tobago have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level from today (Thursday), the Foreign Office announced on Wednesday, reports BSS. The announcement said the governments of both the countries are desirous of strengthening friendly and cooperative relations between them. The government has decided to concurrently accredit Major General (Retd) K. M. Safiullah, at present High Commissioner for Bangladesh to Canada as the non-resident High Commissioner for Bangladesh to Trinidad and Tobago. The governments of Trinidad and Tobago have also agreed to concurrently accredit their High Commissioner in New Delhi as the non-resident High Commissioner to Bangladesh on a reciprocal basis. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Sep 83 p 1]

TRIBUTE TO MAO--The seventh death anniversary of Mao Tse Tung was observed on Friday in a befitting manner. Various political and cultural labour organisations held discussion meetings on this occasion. United Peoples Party and its front organisations arranged a discussion meeting on Friday at the party office. Party Chairman Kazi Zafar Ahmed presided over the meeting. It was addressed by Kazi Mujibur Rahman, Vice Chairman, M. Mostafa Jamal Haider, General Secretary and leaders of Bangla Sramik Federation, Krishak Mukti Samity and Biplabi Chhatra Union. Both the factions of Samyabadi Dal organised a discussion meeting at Ganoshakti office at Motijheel. Khondakar Ali Abbas presided over it. The meeting was addressed by Shanti Sen Asaddar Ali, Dilip Barua, Abdul Matin Abul Khair. The speakers stressed the need for building up a revolutionary unity on the basis of democratic centralism. Bangladesher Majdoor Party leaders paid tributes to Mao Tse Tung in a discussion meeting held on Friday. Saiful Huq presided over the meeting. Bangladesh China Friendship Society in a meeting held on Friday on this occasion paid respect to the memory of late Chinese Leader. Mrs. Quamrunnahr Laily, President of the organisation presided over the meeting. Mao Tse Tung Chintadhara Prachar Andolan, a cultural organisation

will hold a discussion meeting at 3 p.m. on September 11 at Madhu's Canteen of Dhaka University. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Sep 83 p 1]

NEW EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR--Mr Abdul Aziz Moustafa El Quadi has been appointed Ambassador of Arab Republic of Egypt to Bangladesh, it was officially announced in Dhaka, reports BSS. Born on May 26, 1927, Mr Quadi did his Bachelor of Law from Cairo University. He served in Egyptian missions in Addis Ababa, Bern, Djibouti and Nigeria. Prior to his present assignment, he was Deputy Director of National Service Department. Mr Quadi obtained the Egyptian Order of El Gomhouria. He is married and has one son. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 9 Sep 83 p 8]

AMBASSADOR TO CHILE--Santiago (Chile), Sep. 8--Lt. Gen. (Retd) Khwaja Wasiuddin presented his credentials as the first Bangladesh Ambassador to Chile to President Gen. Augusto Pinochet on Monday last at a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in Santiago, reports BSS. Ambassador Wasiuddin who is the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, would be concurrently accredited to Chile with residence in New York. Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Ambassador Wasiuddin expressed his confidence that the establishment of diplomatic relations would promote cooperation between two countries. The President in his reply, reciprocated the sentiments and assured that his Government would extend all facilities to the Ambassador to fulfil his important mission. He also discussed with the Ambassador bilateral relations. Ambassador Wasiuddin also earlier met Foreign Minister of Chile, Mr Miguel Schweitzer and discussed with him bilateral relations and various regional and international matters. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 9 Sep 83 p 4]

CSO: 4600/1067

ANALYST DISCUSSES POSSIBILITY OF CABINET SHAKEUP

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

THE capital has been buzzing for the last one week with persistent reports of an imminent Cabinet reshuffle that has not taken place. The speculation has ranged from forecasts of a big shake up to expectations of only marginal changes. But in either case the very talk of yet another reshuffle has caused considerable concern to many Ministers who were not too sure of their retention, if the Prime Minister decided finally to do something to improve the image of her government.

Those who have been spending sleepless nights, however, are relieved that there is no time left now for a reshuffle before Mrs. Gandhi leaves on Tuesday morning on a two-week trip abroad, although they continue to be tormented by the thought that she might still go in for this much postponed operation on her return to Delhi.

If all this talk of a reshuffle has not been hitting the headlines this time, it is because the press and the public have become a little more wary of Mrs. Gandhi's inscrutable ways, having got on to the wrong track so often in the past. She has been contemplating, no doubt, some drastic changes in her team and drawing up a tentative list in great secrecy to spring a surprise at the right moment, but deferring the idea repeatedly after running into a deadend because of her limited options.

It has not been easy for her to make up her mind whom to retain and whom to drop, whom to induct and whom to promote picking and choosing from a party that is so poor in talent. The few able personalities that are available are not acceptable for one reason or the other, with the result that she is obliged to make do with men of limited experience, despite their inability to comprehend the complexities of modern administration.

The basic hypothesis on which the recurring talk of a Cabinet reshuffle is based is the

widespread feeling that Mrs. Gandhi cannot afford to go to the polls and seek a fresh mandate with her present team, that she must necessarily do something to refurbish its image before facing the people again. In a vast country like India, a Prime Minister has to placate different communities, castes and regions by providing them with adequate representation in the government, with the result that ability is not regarded as the only criterion for selecting Cabinet colleagues.

The tendency to attach greater importance to personal loyalty and unquestioning compliance generally leads to the choice of second rate men often with dubious reputations, who end up by doing considerable damage to the administration with their permissive and wayward behaviour which lowers the prestige of the government.

The real test of leadership lies in breaking this vicious circle to put an end to the pernicious practice of saddling the country with incompetent and undeserving Ministers on considerations totally unrelated to its effective governance. It is both possible and desirable to give greater weightage to ability and integrity over sycophancy and subservience in selecting Cabinet colleagues, without ignoring the legitimate claims of different interests.

In countries like Britain it is a well established tradition that the Prime Minister goes in for one or two major reshuffles during a term if only to demonstrate to all concerned the unquestioned authority of the head of government. But in India it has become customary to treat the very process of Cabinet formation as a long-drawn out exercise spread over several months or even years in the present case, with no finality about it at any stage. The result is that there is an endless uncertainty about its size and composition as well as cohesion and commitment.

In the present context, the talk of yet another, or final instalment of Cabinet expansion or reconstitution has come to assume some special significance, since it is supposed to be the last one before the next parliamentary elections. Though there are 15 months left for these elections, unless the Prime Minister decides to have a snap poll earlier, the country is already getting conditioned to thinking of almost everything in terms of this ordeal ahead for both the ruling Congress (I) and the Opposition.

The ability and utility of virtually everybody is judged on the basis of the contribution a person can make to the success of the party in the elections. It is for this reason that Mrs. Gandhi has been keen on finding suitable berths even for detested ex-Chief Ministers because they can do some damage if they are left free to stir up trouble in their home States. The same consideration prevails in the case of those whom she has been wanting to drop from the Union Cabinet for good reasons.

The challenging tasks of first capturing power and then retaining it over a period of time make many wonder what it is that wins an election in a complex country like India. Is it image politics, money power, personal charisma, solid performance, slick promise or downright dissimulation? It is perhaps a judicious mixture of all these factors, not any one of them by itself that helps to make the right impact on the people at a particular moment.

The slogan of *garibi hatao* which carried the Congress through in 1971 proved to be a cruel joke in the subsequent elections. It used to be said at the height of Mrs. Gandhi's popularity that people voted for Indira, not her party, which encouraged flatterers like D. K. Barooah to coin the slogan "Indira is India and India is Indira."

Money power

But 1977 disproved this theory with a shattering impact when she was defeated and her party was routed in a stunning debacle. After her spectacular victory in 1980 through an equally dramatic reversal of fortunes, a rude shock awaited Mrs. Gandhi in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka where she tried to transform the poll into a fresh vote of confidence in her rule. The Congress (I) managed to retain power in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh only through defections while in Jammu and Kashmir it came out a cropper by misjudging the local Muslim sentiment and relying unduly on the Indira spell to make a big dent on the popularity of the National Conference.

The Congress (I) did succeed in dislodging the marxists in Kerala and giving a better account of itself in West Bengal, but only by lining up with all sorts of heterogeneous elements. The pyrrhic victory in Assam has left behind scars that will take decades to be erased and the nation has yet to recover from the shock of it.

Another question that is often asked is whether money power by itself can tilt the scales in Indian elections. The Congress was not short of money in 1977 nor were the Janata

constituents devoid of funds in 1980. The recent elections in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kashmir where the Congress (I) spent a lot of money proved that at times extravagance bordering on ostentation can be a disadvantage in an election. Similarly, the old Congress culture which has progressively degenerated into sub-culture of cynical opportunism has ceased to make any impact on the public mind in the face of the very disagreeable impression created by an average Congressman.

The widely accepted caricature of the old Congress politician, whatever be the brand of his party or nature of his loyalty, save some 'honourable exceptions, is of a pot-bellied, hypocritical greedy, clumsy and crude individual who has discarded long ago the mask of Gandhian rectitude and taken to permissive ways without any compunction. The posture of humility had its appeal for the common man but it became a gimmick when it was used increasingly as a pretence for covering up one's incompetence or much worse greed for more power with an aura of self-sacrifice.

In contrast, the new breed of safari-suited, smooth-talking Congressmen love the good things of life and make no bones about it. This generation is even more impatient than the older one to get into positions of power and reap a rich harvest while the going is good and there is still time left for it.

What then helps to hold the two species of Congressmen together; is it the spoils of power prospect of a lucrative career in politics or just a cynical feeling that in the absence of any alternative it is better to hang on to the party so long as Mrs. Gandhi is able to carry this assorted excess baggage?

Positive image

If the old Congressmen have lost touch with rural India in their zeal to cling on to the citadels of power in the big cities and towns, the new ones who are an embodiment of a new sub-culture prefer to operate from their air-conditioned salons in five-star comfort. The attempts of Mrs. Gandhi and her son to blend the two strands to project a new prototype of Congressmen have not made much headway despite all the heroic talk of flooding the country with a million well-indoctrinated young men and women to sustain the Indira legend in the villages.

But the strong point with her is that she is still the only political personality left on the national scene with an all-India image, a modern outlook, a scientific bent of mind and an international reputation which collectively give her a positive image in spite of the many negative factors casting their shadows on it.

The fragmented Opposition has not been able to take advantage of the many chinks in Mrs. Gandhi's armour and focus attention on the corroding effects of Congress (I) factionalism. After the disastrous Janata interregnum, the Indian public has become increasingly sceptical about the capacity of the Opposition politicians to rise above the rut of their squabbles and present themselves as a credible alternative to put greater content into the electoral process to reflect the real wishes of the people.

The two new alliances that have surfaced do serve a purpose in the sense that they have held out some hope of an electoral understanding if they do not quarrel and part company again, but they have a long way to go for forging the kind of unity required for making a determined bid to inspire enough confidence and qualify for another chance.

What has kept Mrs. Gandhi going all these years, except for a brief interlude, has not been the innate strength of her party, much less her indispensability, but the chronic disunity of the Opposition. The people still regard her as a better bet despite all her prejudices than the cranky old men who revel in their obscurantism and are totally out of tune with the present.

Mrs. Gandhi has been able to outwit them because she has developed a style of leadership that combines loyalty with fear, that can be cold and ruthless in dealing with opponents but indulgent and tolerant in putting up with the infractions of her henchmen. She has not also hesitated to make common cause even with those whom she detests intensely to derive political advantage. She has changed alliances, discarded old friends and lined up even with her foes to meet the exigencies of changing situations.

The real weakness, and even failure, of Mrs. Gandhi lies in her inability to weld her Congress (I) together into a cohesive organisation with its own traditions of inner party democracy offering enough opportunity for honest dissent without impairing discipline. It is astonishing that since the first Congress split in 1969 there has been no party election at any level and all the 25 PCCs and 327 DCCs are still run by persons nominated from Delhi. The extra-constitutionality that has been allowed to creep into the functioning of the Congress (I) has reduced the elected parliamentary and

legislative parties into non-entities with little or no voice in the composition of the Union Cabinet or choice of Chief Ministers in the States.

The Prime Minister must remove these distortions in the larger national interest and restore the missing values before it becomes too late to set things right. It is no use harping on what happened in the past, what provocations or compulsions led to particular actions, so long as the leadership has not drawn the right lessons from these mistakes. If Mrs. Gandhi believes, as she does, that the Congress even in its badly rundown state has a useful role to play in Indian politics, it is incumbent on her to make a sincere attempt to reform her party before she can expect the Opposition to display greater responsibility in running the parliamentary system.

A Cabinet reshuffle, even if it is a major one involving many changes, can serve only a cosmetic purpose if the ruling party is not prepared to purify its soul and rise above the rut of self-interest. In the life of a party, much more so in the case of one that has been in power for such a long time, winning an election is not everything since there are higher pursuits in politics than merely securing a fresh mandate.

The best manifesto a ruling party can offer to a disillusioned electorate is to create a reassuring impression that it is not hankering after office at any cost, that it is not averse to the idea of sitting in opposition for a change, if those on the other side of the barrier are able to display enough strength and inspire greater confidence to qualify for being given another chance. And in subjecting itself to such a test the Congress (I) will be strengthening its prospects by shedding the odious hang-overs of its past.

CSO: 4600/1050

JANATA LEADER RELEASES UNITED FRONT DOCUMENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, September 17--The four-party united front is yet to get any definite commitment from any other party to join it, though the Janata party leader, Mr. Madhu Dandavate, revealed today that there have been various degrees of response from those invited to become front partners.

The president of the Janvadi Party, Mr. Chandrajit Yadav, has accepted an invitation to attend the front meeting to be held tomorrow. Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, has supported the front move and promised that his party would consider its draft policy statement.

Mr. N. T. Rama Rao, Andhra chief minister, sent some suggestions on Centre-state relations for incorporation in the draft statement.

The front leaders, who met here today, hoped that more support would be forthcoming and there would be some definite offers to join it.

Among the others who replied to the front's invitation are Mr. Rajeswara Rao, general secretary of the CPI, who wanted mention of certain events relating to foreign policy in the draft statement, while Mr. Chitta Basu, president of the All-India Forward Bloc, assured that his party would consider the draft statement in detail.

Mr. Dandavate today released the draft document to the press for wider discussion by the public. Copies of the statement have been sent to political leaders and experts on political affairs. The statement will be finalised after a wide spectrum of views had been elicited.

The draft statement says that the United Front is "irrevocably committed to democratic politics, secularist ideals, egalitarian economy and a socialist society rooted in Gandhian values that would defeat authoritarianism and status quo and usher in a new socio-economic order."

The main points of the draft are:

The Centre-state relations must be reviewed for necessary amendments to the constitution so as to grant more powers to the states.

The distortion in the judiciary must be corrected and in order to ensure free and fair elections, a genuinely independent election commission, unfettered by interference from the executive, must be constituted.

The voting age should be reduced to 18 and a comprehensive anti-defection bill must be introduced without delay. The media must be under the control of autonomous bodies.

The national development council must be made purposeful. It should not be merely a decorative body.

In order to prevent corruption in high places, institutions such as lok pal and lokayukta must be made more effective.

The sense of insecurity among minorities must be assiduously eliminated. The police machinery must be streamlined to prevent communal riots. There must not be any outside interference in the personal law of the minorities. The growing crime against women must be effectively checked.

Economic planning must be democratised and the right to work should be recognised as a fundamental right in the constitution. A rational income, wages and price policy must be evolved.

Foreign policy must be based on anti-imperialism, anti-racialism, non-alignment and unequivocal support for freedom of nations and world peace. It should acquire dynamism to demonstrate India's potential to intervene effectively as a non-aligned force in restoring world peace. Strengthening of friendship with neighbours must be given the highest priority.

Mr. Dandavate said the draft statement could be changed on the basis of views of the new front partners when they joined. He said the front would function on the basis of a consensus.

He said that a consensus had been reached that the Janata party president, Mr. Chandra Shekhar would be the chairman of the front. But he was not being installed as such as yet because the consensus had to be approved by new partners.

CSO: 4600/1047

GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING UP ARMS-BUYING TALKS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Sep 83 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, September 17--India is engaged in a brisk follow-up of bilateral talks with the Soviet Union, the U.K. and France with regard to purchases of defence equipment and technological co-operation.

The defence secretary, Mr. S. M. Ghosh, along with a team of senior officers drawn from the three services, is currently in Moscow discussing with the Soviet side issues related to the arms purchases finalised earlier this year.

The defence minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, was in Moscow in June when he had extensive discussions with his Soviet counterpart, Marshal Dmitry Ustinov. The highlight of the visit was the Soviet agreement to supply this country with advanced missiles and improved versions of MiG aircraft.

The Soviet Union had also agreed on credit terms favourable to India and on transfer of technology. Some of the details are being worked out by the defence secretary who will be back here next week. Defence co-operation with the Soviet Union also covers the manufacture of T-72 tanks in India and manufacturing plans for MiG-27. The Soviet Union is providing the Indian Navy with Kashin class frigates.

France, U.K. Visits

While India mainly relies on the Soviet equipment because of some of above-mentioned favourable factors, it has found attractive some European sources for the supply of high-technology equipment.

The defence minister is expected to visit France and the U.K. next month for talks on intensifying defence co-operation with these two countries. A defence ministry spokesman here denied that any memorandum of understanding had been signed with the U.K. last week with regard to the supply of defence equipment.

The British companies are supplying Sea King helicopters and Sea Eagle missiles under one of the latest agreements. From France, India is to buy Mirage-2000 and with West Germany, India is collaborating in the field of

submarines. India is currently looking for an appropriate early warning system for its air force.

Meanwhile, Air Chief Marshal Dilbagh Singh, chief of the air staff, left here today for Yugoslavia on a week's visit at the invitation of Lt.-General S. Obodan Alagic, commandant of the Yugoslav air force and air defence.

The air chief is scheduled to visit operational bases, training centres and manufacturing establishments of the Yugoslav air force.

CSO: 4600/1047

CPI-M CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN DELHI REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Sep 83 p 8

[Text]

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has criticised "most of the non-left opposition parties" for not including in their programme the struggle against the imperialist pressure on our country and against divisive forces "which have the support of imperialist agencies to disrupt the unity and integrity of the country".

The Central Committee of the party, which met in the Capital from 10 to 16 September, said "some of them even encouraged the divisive forces, and many of them leave the country defenceless against imperialism and its accomplices".

The press communique and resolutions adopted by the committee were released by party general secretary E M S Namboodiripad on Saturday at a news conference.

"If the Opposition parties do not take up the struggle against imperialism and the divisive forces, they will actually be weakening the struggle against authoritarianism", it warned.

The committee said that these parties did not realise that they were leaving the initiative in the hands of the "authoritarian ruling party" due to this policy.

It attacked the National Democratic Alliance and described

it as an effort to bring about the maximum opposition unity "to isolate the left forces which are the consistent fighters against authoritarianism and in defence of people".

The committee, however, welcomed the formation of the four-party United Front "which has expressed its readiness to work with the left parties".

While the CPI(M) stood for every effort to isolate the ruling party it pointed out that people did not automatically change merely because they were "discontented". Their discontent could be put on the right channels only if mass struggles were organised not only on immediate economic issues and civil liberty but also against the basic policies of the Congress-I. The initiative for this, should be kept in the hands of the left and democratic forces, it added.

"Many of the opposition parties do not take this into account and seem to think that just by a few of them coming together the situation in the country can be changed", it said.

The committee has called on all the left forces to preserve and strengthen their unity and not allow any scope to any disruptive tendencies and activities.

It criticised the ruling party and said that its policies spread

discontent among the people. There was complete chaos and anarchic conditions prevailed in the ruling party, which was a matter of concern of the nation, Mr Namboodiripad said.

In reply to a question, Mr Namboodiripad welcomed the exit of Mr Mir Qasim from the ruling party and said "it is good so far as we are concerned. It is still better if there could be more Mir Qasims".

The Central Committee warmly greeted the people of Pakistan for their glorious struggle for the end of military dictatorship and said "the victory of the people will be a big blow to the US imperialist schemes, and at the same time, will enable the people to enjoy the rights and liberties of a democratic regime".

The Committee noted with concern the direct intervention of the US imperialism with troops weapons and aircraft-carriers in Central America and other places and expressed its solidarity with the peoples of Latin America, West Asia, especially of Lebanon and the Palestinians, and of Africa.

In reply to a question, Mr Namboodiripad said that he, Mr Jyoti Basu and Mr Nripen Chakravarty would attend the coming Opposition meeting at Srinagar, where Centre-State relations would be discussed.

CSO: 4600/1052

FORWARD BLOC MAKES PROPOSALS ON CENTER-STATE RELATIONS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] Calcutta, Sept 18 (PTI)--The All India Forward Bloc has advocated an amendment to Article 248 of the Constitution 'to protect' autonomy of States which it said should have exclusive powers to make law with respect to any matter not enumerated in the Union or Concurrent List.

This has been stated by the party in its 13-point proposals on Centre-State relations, a reappraisal of which it said was overdue for planned economic development, strengthening the unity and integrity of the country and safeguarding the freedom and sovereignty.

The proposals formulated by the Forward Bloc's Central Committee said that the Union Government's authority should be preserved and strengthened on matters of defence, foreign affairs including foreign trade, currency and communications and economic coordination.

A separate article, the party said, should be introduced in the Constitution stating clearly the composition of the Planning Commission, which should be determined by the National Development Council. 'At the moment neither the Council nor the Planning Commission is specifically referred to in the Constitution,' it said.

It called for major modifications in the allocations of powers between the Centre and the States in matters concerning industrial licensing etc. The list in the Seventh Schedule should be reformulated so that States might be given exclusive powers in respect of certain categories of industries.

The articles regarding the Finance Commission and the distribution of revenues should be amended to provide for 75 per cent of the total revenue raised by the Centre from all sources for allocation to different States by the Finance Commission, it added.

The party has also suggested the deletion of Articles 356 and 357 which enable the President to dissolve a State Government or its Assembly or both. The present system of securing the President's assent to bills passed by the State Assemblies should be done away with, it said.

Another suggestion is that Rajya Sabha members be directly elected by the people at the same time as Lok Sabha poll.

Among other suggestions made by the party are: All India Services like the IAS, IPS, etc. whose officers are posted to the States, but remain under the supervision and disciplinary control of the Centre must be abolished. There should be only Union services and State services and recruitment to them should be made respectively by the Union and State Governments concerned.

The party has also pointed out that Article 368 should be so amended as to ensure that no amendment of the Constitution is possible without the concurrence of two thirds of the members present and voting in each House of Parliament.

English should continue to be used for all official purposes of the Union Government along with Hindi as long as people of non-Hindi regions so desire.

The Forward Bloc has also expressed itself in favour of retaining the special status of Kashmir as laid down in Article 370 of the Constitution.

CSO: 4600/1052

PTI REPORTS GANDHI SPEECH, ACTIVITIES IN ATHENS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Sep 83 pp 1, 7

[Text] Athens, Sept. 22 (PTI)--India and Greece today called for an end to the arms race and said the biggest challenge of the time was that of curbing the destructive power brought into being by man's own inventive powers.

"The great powers have global interests and these very interests become our anxieties," Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said at a banquet hosted in her honour by Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou.

Mrs Gandhi arrived here from Nicosia for a four-day official visit--the first by an Indian Prime Minister--to a red carpet welcome. She was greeted on arrival by Mr Papandreou, Cabinet Ministers and Indian Ambassador R. C. Arora.

Mrs Gandhi said in Nicosia at the end of an official three-day visit to Cyprus that she considered her coming talks with Greek leaders "very important" and hoped to get a better insight into Mr Papandreou's perceptions of regional problems.

Referring to the economic situation, Mrs Gandhi said "a North-South dialogue will benefit the North no less than the South. This dialogue is bound to be long drawn out." Such a dialogue she said, had to be supplemented by a conference on money and finance for development as the recent nonaligned meeting in New Delhi suggested.

Earlier welcoming Mrs Gandhi, the Greece Prime Minister said more than ever, the world situation today "is fraught with danger."

"The spectre of nuclear holocaust has become more and more haunting. The escalation of armaments had reached a point where each of the major nuclear powers had a capacity of destroying the world many times over.

"So there is only one possible answer to this nightmarish situation, the prevalence of moral values, the adherence to the principles that inspired those who, at the wake of the greatest catastrophe the world has ever known, drafted the charter of the United Nations. Unfortunately, this charter, which embodied the nobler ideals of mankind, tended more and more to become a dead letter.

"The international crises drag on and on while new hotbeds of tension are added to the international scene. And all this to the detriment of the weak who feel increasingly helpless before the might of the powerful," he said.

Mr Papandreou said apart from the strife and confrontation, the economic crisis was acquiring alarming proportions. The gap between poor and the rich widened instead of being reduced. Many countries, and even whole continents, have to live under the burden of an increasing foreign debt.

He said Mrs Gandhi's initiative to hold an informal gathering of heads of State or Government in New York next week was viewed very favourably by his Government. But for reasons known to her he was regrettably not able to attend it personally. He hoped that the meeting would have concrete and positive results.

Mrs Gandhi said India had striven all along to live amicably with its immediate neighbours. "The increasing militarisation of the lands to our north and of the seas around our peninsula has increased our apprehensions of danger."

The Prime Minister said India always wanted the friendship and trust of countries adjoining it and those beyond. "Even when rebuffed, we have persisted," she said.

Without naming Sri Lanka or Pakistan, Mrs Gandhi said "internal events in our neighbourhood necessarily cast their shadows on us. We try to soothe the feelings of our people in pursuance of our policy of peaceful solutions through discussion. We should like all countries in our region to be strong and stable for themselves and also for our own well being."

Mrs Gandhi said India would like all countries in the region to be strong and stable for themselves and also for our own well being.

"Peace needs to be tended and safeguarded. Like righteousness peace protects us when we protect it. Perhaps it is easier to wage war than steadfastly strive for peace but no enduring solution can ever come from war," Mrs Gandhi said.

Earlier Cyprus President Spyros Kyprianou accompanied her to the airport where she was given a ceremonial and warm send-off. She was cheered by jubilant crowds all along the 52 km drive to the airport.

Joint Efforts

Appearing at a joint press conference Mrs Gandhi and President Kyprianou expressed 'complete agreement' on various international issues, asserting that the two countries would do their best to boost the nonaligned movement's efforts to reduce tension in the world.

They hoped that the coming summit of world leaders called by Mrs Gandhi in her capacity as chairperson of the NAM, would contribute to lessening tension in the world.

Describing the summit as 'informal' Mrs Gandhi said that although 'I am not too optimistic about it meeting do help.'

'Perhaps, by thinking together something can come up,' she said adding that the summit would be 'more an assertion of loud thinking.'

Mrs Gandhi rejected a suggestion that the movement could not achieve much because of problems within the nonaligned countries.

Nations do 'realise that negotiations are better than military options,' she said. This was also realised by the two power blocs which were not as rigid now as they used to be despite their continuing confrontation.

There was no joint communique on the talks between Mrs Gandhi and Mr Kyprianou in line with India's new attempt to have frank and meaningful discussions rather than be tied down to diplomatic cliches. Instead, wherever possible, joint press conferences would be held.

In the same spirit of doing away with formalities, no return banquet was given to Mr Kyprianou by Mrs Gandhi as unnecessary ceremonies 'are time wasting,' informed sources said.

Mrs Gandhi said the Lebanese situation and the Iran-Iraq war were of extreme concern. Although India had been making efforts to bring about an end to hostilities, 'it is difficult to say what would come out of them.'

She clarified that India did not take any new initiative recently but the visits of External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao were in continuation of earlier parleys to bring Iran and Iraq to the conference table.

The Gulf war and the West Asian situation would also come up at the summit. There would however, be no resolution on them.

CSO: 4600/1064

PRESS BRIEFED ON CPI NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Sep 83 pp 1, 10

[Text] The Communist Party of India will not join the five-party United Front but 'cooperate with it from outside'.

Briefing newsmen on the conclusions of the four-day deliberations of the CPI National Council, party general-secretary C. Rajeswara Rao said that the council 'welcomed' the formation of the Front and would have 'positive' approach to it.

The party would want 'this Front to adopt firm anti-imperialist, secular and democratic positions so as to help promote the unity of left and democratic forces', he added.

Describing the National Democratic Alliance as 'a reactionary front with pro-imperialist and communal BJP as its driving force' Mr Rajeswara Rao said 'CPI can have nothing to do with such a front'.

The council called upon all left parties to come still closer and project their own programme to help build left and democratic alternative to the bourgeois rule.

CPI-CPI-M

Regarding CPI-CPI-M relations it said that despite recent open polemics and differences on ideological issues, 'the two parties have adopted common positions on several current national and international issues and engaged in joint actions' and the process would continue and develop further.

Criticizing Mrs Gandhi's economic policies and also her 'new election strategy', the council held her Government responsible for the deteriorating economic situation in the country and the sufferings of the people.

It expressed "concern that for short-term political gains, Mrs Gandhi is pandering to a certain communal sentiment in the majority community and that it has become a part of her electoral strategy to win the next Lok Sabha elections. Such an approach can only bring grist to the mill of aggressive communalism and harm the cause of secularism".

We want her retrace from this policy, Mr Rajeswara Rao said.

However, he made it clear that his party did not charge Mrs Gandhi as being communal, but criticized her for adopting "softer attitude towards" Hindu communalism.

Mr Rajeswara Rao said that his party's stand was one of uncompromising opposition to the economic policies of the Government, but it was prepared to support its foreign policy and its fight against communal, casteist and chauvinistic forces.

He said that his party would support the ruling party in its efforts to defend the unity and integrity of the nation, but the Congress-I had spurned the offer.

However, Mr Rajeswara Rao refused to accept the contention that among the non-Left political parties, it was only Mrs Gandhi who was anti-imperialist and pro-Soviet.

Anti-imperialist and pro-Soviet forces in the country were widely based, he said, and added that many leaders of the Janata, including Karnataka Chief Minister Ram Krishna Hegde, had joined the peace campaign.

To persistent questions whether he agreed with the analysis of Indian situation given by the Soviet Union through its journals, Mr Rajeswara Rao made it clear that the Soviet Union did not interfere in internal situations of fraternal parties.

"Please don't drag Soviet Union into this. Such a step would only help anti-Soviet forces," he said, and added 'Let us settle internal matters on our soil itself'.

In reply to a question Mr Rao denied any knowledge that veteran party leader Yogendra Sharma against whom drastic disciplinary action was taken, had carried any letter from Mrs Gandhi to Mr Andropov.

"We do not know of any such letter," he said.

As to whether Mr Sharma had given a copy of the letter to the party central secretariat, Mr Rao said that "nobody knows about such a copy."

Asked if the disciplinary action against Mr Sharma was on this score, Mr Rajeswara Rao reaffirmed that the action was taken on his anti-party and disruptive activities, his attempt to set up a parallel centre and other offences.

In reply to another question, Mr Rao revealed that only two members had voted against the resolution on punishment to Mr Sharma.

Asked why Mr Sharma was not expelled from the party, Mr Rao said that "we want to reclaim those who can still be reclaimed."

Among the maladies on the economic front highlighted by the council's resolution were the unabated price increase and the defending of all possible concessions to bring capitalists to make unlimited profits.

Pinpointing the stunning revelations made by London-based industrialist Swraj Paul of how large Indian companies had no more than five to ten per cent of the shares, and were thriving on funds from public financial institutions, it demanded the takeover of all such companies where these institutions had over 50 per cent equity as well as other mismanaged units.

The council criticized the 'opportunistic stand being taken by the Punjab and Haryana units of some bourgeois parties, particularly the Cong-I and BJP, in whipping up chauvinist sentiments, thereby delaying solution of the Punjab problem.'

The Punjab problem can be solved tomorrow 'if Mrs Gandhi wants it,' Mr Rao said, but added that 'she does not want it.'

The council in its resolution expressed surprise at the 'continued hobnobbing with Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale by the Congress-I.'

"I would not like to take the name of people in key positions who helped create him. I would not like to dishonour the positions they are holding," the CPI general-secretary said.

The national council felt the Cong-I was adopting a policy of 'confrontation' towards the National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir and said this 'is harmful to the cause of secular-democratic set-up of the country. This policy must be given up,' it added.

The council fully 'endorsed and appreciated' the role and work of the party's central secretariat in the Opposition parties' meeting at Vijayawada and Delhi and deputed Mr Rao and Mr M. Farooqi, its secretary to attend the Srinagar conclave, being hosted by Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, to discuss Centre-State relations.

In a separate paragraph on the danger to India's unity and integrity, the council accused US imperialism of hatching conspiracies and manoeuvres against the country with a view 'to destabilising it and to encircle it with military bases.' It said that the CPI and all the left forces must be in the forefront in exposing and resisting this danger.

It welcomed the peace initiative of the Soviet Union and described as 'constructive and of historical importance' the proposals made by the Soviet President Yuri Andropov recently for arms reduction.

The following are the points made by the council on other issues:

Sri Lanka: The council held the Jayewardene government 'directly responsible for the massacre of Tamils there' and called upon that government to open talks with the Tamil organisations for settling the problem without any conditions.

Pakistan: The council expressed complete solidarity with and support for the Movement for Restoration of Democracy in that country in defence of human rights and against the attempts of the military dictatorship to turn Pakistan into a base for US imperialist designs against countries of the region including India.

CSO: 4600/1064

INDIAN DELEGATE SPEAKS AT COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MEET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Sep 83 p 3

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Sept 22 (PTI, AFP)--India has asked the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference here to come out with an unequivocal call for an international conference on money and finance for development.

Indian delegation leader P. K. Kaul, Union Finance Secretary, told the conference which opened yesterday, that it should make a strong endorsement of the recommendations of the expert group commissioned by the finance ministers, that had identified areas of reform in this regard.

He said the call for the international conference had also been given by the New Delhi nonaligned meet earlier this year and India was happy that it had now received the technical support of distinguished experts. India was confident that Commonwealth governments, collectively and individually, would now work towards this objective.

Mr Kaul regretted the retrogression in the commitment of the world community to strengthening monetary and financial internationalism in contrast to the increasing requirements of resources and said the monetary system, in turmoil for some time, did not show any sign of stability, direction or purpose.

Referring to specific and crucial issues before the conference and the forthcoming Fund-Bank meetings, he expressed India's opposition to suggestions to lower the percentage access to the IMF financing facilities which were the most obvious answer to short-term and medium-term adjustment problems of countries.

While the resources of the IMF, hopefully, were to be increased from 60 billion dollars to 90 billion dollars by raising quotas, the gains would be negated largely by reduction in access limits on the ground there was an increase in absolute amounts available. No logic or economic test justified this move, he said.

Further, Mr Kaul said, increasing quotas with reduction in access limits would mean a larger support of the funds programmes from the resources of developing countries which also went into the fund. It could hardly be

anybody's case that developing countries should help one another rather than expect larger support from the industrial countries, he said.

In another way too, access to fund facilities was restricted by increased emphasis on conditionality. This could not be the general intent as the short-term needs and medium-term prospects would justify a greater role for the fund, he said.

Domestic Policies

Earlier the conference opened with strong criticisms of the domestic policies of industrialised nations and of the terms of aid through the international lending agencies.

The theme was emphasized by Shridath Ramphal, secretary-general of the organisation, Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers and Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ronnie De Mel, in their formal addresses at the start of the conference.

Mr Ramphal was critical of the 'conditionality' concept of the world's lending agencies and said it was unfair to attribute the adjustment burdens of developing countries purely to domestic mismanagement, or what he said is courteously described as "incorrect domestic policies."

In these circumstances, Mr Ramphal said, 'to tell the LDCs (least developed countries) to adjust,' and compel them to do so by conditionality, can be like telling a society hit by a wave of lawlessness to accept vandalism as a way of life, without resorting to the rule of law and a return to an ordered society.

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers, the conference chairman, said that in spite of several attempts in recent years, at international levels, 'no progress has been made on the fundamental restructuring of the international institutions responsible for finance, trade and aid.'

Practical Measures

'The time has come for the developing countries to begin together the quest for practical measures designed to reduce the historical dependence of our countries on events in the developed countries,' Mr Chambers said.

In his reply Sri Lankan Minister of Finance and Planning Ronnie De Mel severely criticised what he described as the enormous outlays on armaments in both the developed and developing world in the face of the sacrifices some countries need to meet their obligations.

CSO: 4600/1064

PAPER REPORTS ON COMMERCE MINISTER'S VISIT TO USSR

8 Sep Talks With Patolichev

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Sep 83 p 5

[Text]

The Soviet Union will send two high-level trade delegations to Delhi during the next three months to discuss large import-export deals with both public and private sector organisations, reports UNL.

Commerce Minister V P Singh's talks with Soviet officials on Thursday was reported to have covered ways and means to correct the current year's trade imbalance and to raise the volume of trade.

Mr V P Singh and Commerce Secretary Abid Hassan had day-long talks on Thursday with Foreign Trade Minister N Patolichev and his Deputy Minister I Grishin and in this regard.

Among the new topics discussed at the talks was the purchase of civilian aircraft by India for its domestic flights.

The Soviet Union has made an offer in this regard and the Indian delegation is believed to have hinted that the offer would be studied in depth.

In order to generate the necessary rupee resources, India would purchase from the Soviet Union more newsprint, fertilisers, engineering items, non-ferrous metals, zinc, aluminium, asbestos and other intermediary items.

The Soviet Union has also expressed its desire to purchase sugar from India. So far the Soviet Union has been buying sugar from Cuba. Moscow would also like to buy tobacco from India in cigarette form.

The Indian delegation is believed to have emphasised that momentary fluctuations in trade should not unnerve either side and a larger perspective should always be borne in mind keeping in view the abiding friendly relations between the two countries.

The two sides have also discussed the technical credits for generating rupee resources.

Mr V P Singh stressed the need for arranging a production programme between the two countries. He is believed to have drawn the attention of Soviet side to India's willingness for making durable arrangements for it.

The link trade idea was also discussed in detail, it is learnt.

Talks With Arkhipov, Baybakov

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by Vinod Taksal]

[Text]

MOSCOW, Sept. 11—Soviet Union has invited India to collaborate in a major way in the third country ventures, and has offered India natural gas from Siberia and assistance in setting up nuclear power stations.

Both countries have also reiterated their determination to fulfill contracts for the current year, and raise the bilateral trade both in quantity and quality. They have resolved that "technical credit" and temporary imbalances would not be allowed to hinder trade growth.

This was largely the outcome of Commerce Minister V P Singh's high-level talks here on Friday with Deputy Premier Ivan Arkhipov, Planning Committee Chief Nikolai Baibakov and Foreign Economic Relations Committee Chairman Ryabov.

Mr Singh met each of them separately during the day and reviewed the state of Indo-Soviet trade, the impact of the Soviet trade deficit on it, and the future prospects. Following the discussions, both sides shared the view that the volume of trade in 1984 should not be lowered, rather should be increased over the existing level.

Soviet Union is India's biggest trading partner, but the volume of trade is not so big that a quantum jump would be precluded, the Commerce Minister told Mr Arkhipov, who agreed that future trade levels should be higher than what it is now.

A totally new idea of giving Indo-Soviet trade an impetus and a new innovative dimension came from Planning Committee Chief Nikolai Baibakov, who offered to India supplies of Soviet natural gas.

In this he offered a gas pipeline from Central Asia to India, and expressed confidence that a fan-

tasy today could become a reality tomorrow. A way could be found to take the pipeline through the intermediate countries, he said.

He paid tributes to the efforts of late K D Malaviya and the vision of Pandit Nehru who brought India on the world oil map, and offered Soviet assistance in building up India's energy resources, specifically he offered to train Indian specialists in compressed gas techniques used by the USSR and also in tapping nuclear power.

Indian specialists could study Soviet 'fast breeder reactors', and also learn to make maximum use of natural gas, Mr Baibakov said and added the Soviet Union looks forward to see an India with abundance in energy resources.

Deputy Premier Arkhipov declared that the USSR would like a balanced trade for the next year, 'but not at the cost of increased Indian exports' to this country. He also felt that trade should be conducted in a manner that neither country was required to take recourse to technical credits. However, assistance and such credits should not be a taboo, he added.

While Mr V P Singh sought additional supplies of Soviet crude oil to be maintained in the next year, Mr Arkhipov laid stress on Indian participation in third country ventures.

There was a good scope for both countries working together in third countries, Mr Arkhipov said and regretted that India could not participate in a Nigerian steel plant project because of shortage of capital. Consequently the deal went to another developing country.

From now on the Soviet Union in such cases would find capital assistance both for India and the third country, the Deputy Premier said and felt Indian private sector could be associated in third country ventures.

ANALYST DISCUSSES OCTOBER TALKS WITH PRC

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 12.

There have been some hints from the Chinese side that, during the next round of official level talks at the end of October, they would be prepared to engage in a more detailed review of the respective positions to carry forward the dialogue on the border dispute beyond the stage of talking primarily in terms of the principles that should form the basis for a settlement.

The two Governments are at present considering mutually convenient dates in the last week of October for the fourth round in Delhi, which is going to be quite important in the sense that the stalemated talks might either run into a dead end or open up the possibilities of substantive discussions at a politically opportune moment when both sides are ready for serious negotiations.

At least to this limited extent some extra importance is being attached to the impending exchanges, because of the growing realisation of the futility of simply going through the motions of one more round in the absence of a common desire to make a determined effort to settle the problem. The tone for more purposeful discussions during the official talks next month will be probably set at a political level through informal contacts during the U.N. General Assembly session.

The big difficulty in coming to grips with the fundamentals of the border problem is how to wade through the maze of the working principles and propositions spelt out by both sides at various stages of the dispute from 1960 onwards to be able to agree on what basis to start substantive discussions that could step by step lead to a political settlement.

Despite many hurdles, a modest breakthrough has already been achieved to the extent that China has been talking of a package settlement that does not altogether preclude a more flexible approach to the territorial aspects

of the border dispute, and India, too, has indicated its willingness to work for a just solution taking into account the legitimate interests of both sides.

Slight flexibility: It is still premature to proceed on the assumption that China is going to adopt a more reasonable attitude at the next round of talks in Delhi. But what is really important in this context is that the slight flexibility being displayed by China deserves to be probed deeper to discern whether this indeed represents a readiness to seek a reasonable settlement that is fair and equitable through a balance of matching concessions.

A proper conclusion about the Chinese intentions can be arrived at only after carefully analysing and assessing what they are going to say at the next round of discussions, whether it implies a marked improvement over their past postures.

After the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister return from the United Nations, the Government will have to start drawing up the necessary briefs to be well prepared with the right responses to any new moves the Chinese might make for ending the current stalemate and opening the way for the next phase of discussions. It means that at some stage of this dialogue India should be ready with its own counter-proposals for a negotiated settlement, instead of merely reiterating its earlier stand

that the Chinese package offer was inadequate and therefore unacceptable.

It is not beyond the ingenuity of Indian negotiators to mesh Zhou Enlai's six points, Mr. Deng Xiaoping's package offer, Mr. Huang Hua's five propositions and India's own six working principles to evolve a framework for negotiations without any pre-conditions from either side.

China view not accepted: The very first point of Zhou's six-point formula that was put forward in 1960 insisted that there existed a

boundary dispute, which India totally repudiated maintaining that the border was well defined by custom, usage and tradition. The package offer of Mr. Deng tried to skirt the issue by suggesting the two sides should settle the dispute on the basis of the existing realities which meant that the Chinese would retain the occupied territory while giving up their claims to the area south of McMahon Line that is not under their control at present.

It should be possible for the Indian negotiators to draw a distinction between the line of actual control that Zhou spoke of in 1960 and the new one that came into existence in the wake of Chinese occupation of additional territory during the 1962 conflict. If the Chinese are brought round to accepting this distinction for the purpose of these negotiations, then India can press forward with its plea that the talks should start off at the point they were broken off when the fighting started in 1962. And this is where the old Colombo proposals that India accepted could be brought back into the picture as a starting point for fresh negotiations.

CSO: 4600/1038

MISSION OF RESERVE BANK STUDY PANEL DESCRIBED

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Sep 83 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 12.

The Committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to review the working of the monetary system, under the chairmanship of Prof. Sukhamoy Chakravarty, will study, among other things, the implications of the increasing reliance of the Government on banks and non-banking financial institutions for mobilising resources for planned development.

It will examine the most effective instrument or a combination of instruments for exercising monetary and credit control from among the bank rate, open market operations, variations in cash reserve and statutory liquidity ratios, selective credit controls, changes in the interest rates on deposits and advances, selective credit controls, quantitative guidelines on credit expansion and other measures.

Review of RBI powers: The Committee will also scrutinise closely whether the RBI has enough powers to ensure effective implementation of monetary policy and the areas in which it has yet to create the institutional infrastructure and formulate conventions, procedures and practices, to facilitate the conduct of monetary policy. The objectives of exchange rate policies in the Indian context in relation to the existing system and whether they are being met will also be studied by the Committee.

It will also evaluate the role of specialised financial institutions such as the Life Insurance Corporation, the Unit Trust of India, the General Insurance Corporation and its subsidiaries and the Industrial Development Bank of India, in the securities, capital and money market.

Interaction of policies: The Committee has been asked to assess the interaction between monetary policy and other policies, particularly fiscal policy and public debt management in so far as they have a bearing on the effectiveness

of monetary policy. It has been asked to recommend measures for improvement in the formulation and operation of monetary and credit policies and to suggest specific areas where the various policy instruments need strengthening.

Rural bank structure: It will examine whether the nature, size and growth of priority sector credit requirements would justify the extension of the regional rural banking structure. It will also study how and to what extent the rapid bank branch expansion has affected lending risks.

Among other matters which will engage the attention of the Committee is whether the extension of substantial amount of bank credit to medium and large industrial units which have become sick, points towards poor evaluation by banks of credit requests. It will consider the kind of mechanisms required to monitor the efficient use of credit for major commodities like food, sugar, cotton textiles and jute, involving bulk credit allocation.

The committee will also consider whether the rapid branch expansion by banks has led to lower standards of customer service and whether this has hindered deposit mobilisation efforts.

CSO: 4600/1038

COMMERCE MINISTER TELLS RESULTS OF VISIT TO USSR

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Sep 83 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, September 13--The Soviet Union has agreed to supply an additional one million tonnes of crude to India in 1984 as well, according to Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, commerce minister, who has just returned after holding trade talks in Moscow.

The Soviet Union supplies 2.5 million tonnes of crude to India on a regular basis. In 1983 it sold an additional one million tonnes. This additional quantity would be supplied in 1984 also.

Mr. Singh said that a formal communication in this regard would be sent by the Soviet Union to India shortly.

Mr. Singh said the Soviet leaders gave a commitment that the 1984 Indo-Soviet trade plan would be higher than that of 1983. They promised to ensure that Indian exports to the Soviet Union did not decline.

Mr. Singh admitted that the 1983 trade plan would not be "fully" fulfilled. But as a result of his talks in Moscow, there would be a definite improvement over the present situation.

The Soviet Union had already contracted Rs. 1,284 crores worth of goods from India in the current year. It had now agreed to send another team to India to explore the possibility of further purchases valued at "a few hundred crores". The team would arrive in New Delhi in October or November.

The commerce minister was happy that Moscow had agreed to make purchases from India in labour-intensive areas. He said he had indicated "problem areas" to them. These included tobacco, fruit juices, cables, printed cotton, industrial fabrics, readymade garments, cotton sewing thread, cosmetics and detergents, and jute goods.

India had also suggested to Moscow that it should buy sugar, tea, and hosiery and knitwear.

However, Mr. Singh admitted, there was no hope of the Soviet Union buying cashew kernels from India because it purchased almonds from Afghanistan at almost half the price.

The commerce minister said that India would make further purchases from the Soviet Union. Two inter-ministerial committees had been set up to identify items that could be bought from Russia and other socialist countries.

The private sector in India was also being involved in the trade with the Soviet Union and two delegations sponsored by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Assocham were at present in Moscow.

India had bought 65,000 tonnes of newsprint from Russia valued at Rs. 35 crores. The Soviet side had also suggested that India should buy more aircraft from it. The suggestion would be submitted to the ministries concerned.

The commerce minister said that for the past three years, the trade balance had been in India's favour. In 1982, Indian imports from the Soviet Union were valued at Rs. 1,253 crores and exports to the Soviet Union at Rs. 1,921 crores.

The 1983 trade plan envisaged Indian exports to the Soviet Union worth Rs. 1,880 crores and imports worth Rs. 1,746 crores.

Mr. Singh pointed out that the Soviet Union was India's largest trading partner and the value of trade had grown ten times in ten years--from Rs. 300 crores in 1971 to Rs. 3,176 crores in 1982.

CSO: 4600/1039

INDIAN RESERVE BANK REPORT FOR 1982-83 SUMMARIZED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Sep 83 pp 1, 9

[Text] Bombay, September 13--While 1983-84 (July-June) promises to be a year of substantial improvement for the Indian economy, as against a serious setback suffered by it in the previous year, concerted efforts are needed to increase agricultural and industrial production, to reduce the trade deficit and to contain inflation.

Stating this in the annual report for 1982-83, the Reserve Bank of India notes that exhorted efforts to increase production of foodgrains are needed to ensure that the country does not depend on imports "to feed its growing population." It states that a faster rate of growth in agriculture "becomes a necessity from the point of view of narrowing the deficit in the balance of payments as well."

The report points out that the combination of a decline in agricultural production, with a deceleration in industrial growth, had a serious impact on national income, with real national income showing only a small rise in 1982-83.

It notes that it is the reflection of the increased resilience of the economy and of the effectiveness of supply and demand management policy that there was relative stability in prices during the year.

Slow Growth Rate

The orderly management of both the price situation and the country's external payments in the face of a severe drought, and deteriorating external environment for aid and trade, has been a very encouraging feature of the economic performance during 1982-83.

Referring to the agricultural front, the report points out that concern has been voiced recently on the slow growth in agricultural production. In this context, it is pointed out that maximum output of foodgrains achieved so far is 133 million tonnes in 1981-82, which is only about a million tonnes higher than the former peak reached in 1978-79.

Foodgrains production seems to be moving up more or less in a "stepwise fashion." The rate of growth of 2.5 per cent per annum achieved in the last decade is only marginally higher than the increase in population, leaving the per capita availability of foodgrains almost unchanged. This suggests that agriculture needs a fresh impetus to develop and extend technology to new crops and new areas. A fuller utilisation of irrigation potential already created, research on drought resistance varieties of seeds, development of dry farming and more effective extension work to reach the small farmers are some of the urgent requirements, the report points out.

Stressing the need for ensuring continued external viability, the report points out that even though the balance of payments position may be under control and manageable in the next few years, careful planning is necessary in this regard, particularly since the burden of servicing and repaying substantial foreign debts incurred in the recent past will increase considerably in the latter half of the eighties.

Flow of Remittances

The report warns that the country has to reckon with uncertainties about the future flow of remittances on private account in the context of changes in oil prices. Besides, the outlook for external aid is not encouraging. To cope with such a situation, the trade deficit will have to considerably be narrowed to start with.

Emphasising the need for export promotion and import substitution, the report calls for a reduction of the country's dependence on imported sources of energy.

Referring to control of inflation, the report points out that the option of "living with inflation" is no longer seen as an option. Control of inflation becomes a necessity if viability of balance of payments, and in particular the competitiveness of exports, is to be maintained.

The rate of growth of money and credit over any period of time cannot be far in out of line with the increase in real output. In this context, the users of credit both in government and in the commercial sectors will have to be subject to the inescapable discipline of minimising the increase of credit and maintaining total expansion within the limit.

In the Indian situation, increasing output under conditions of constant cost increases would require stepping up the savings rate and improving the efficiency in the use of capital.

Referring to the credit policy, the report says that the objective would be to regulate the quantum of liquidity in the system so as to keep inflationary expectations under control, while facilitating the full realisation of the productive potential of the economy.

According to the RBI estimates, the growth rate in net national product (NNP) in real terms in 1982-83 is between one and two per cent in contrast to the growth of five per cent in 1981-82 and 8.1 per cent in 1980-81. Aggregate net domestic savings for 1982-83 has been provisionally estimated at 16.8 per cent of the NNP which denotes a marginal rise of 0.3 percentage point over the previous year.

During 1982-83, money supply increased by Rs. 10 crores (15.3 per cent) against the rise of Rs. 7,556 crores (12.9 per cent) in the preceding year. The wholesale price index (1970-71 = 100) recorded a net rise of seven per cent against 2.5 per cent, and the consumer price index (1960 = 100) of 13.4 per cent against 7.1 per cent.

Despite adverse developments in world trade, there was some improvement in the balance of trade position. During the year ended March, 1983, imports totalled Rs. 14,047 crores against Rs. 13,110 crores in 1981-82, and exports totalled Rs. 8,638 crores against Rs. 7,358 crores. The trade deficit thus narrowed down to Rs. 5,409 crores against Rs. 5,752 crores.

During the year ended June, 1983, foreign currency assets of RBI have recorded a rise of Rs. 1,531 crores to Rs. 4,080 crores. However, excluding the receipts from the IMF under the extended fund facility (EFF) to the extent of Rs. 1,908 crores, foreign currency assets would show a decline of Rs. 377 crores.

The exchange rate of the rupee underwent 113 changes during the year. The value of the rupee appreciated in terms of the pound sterling by 6.8 per cent over the year. The rupee also appreciated against the French franc (5.7 per cent), the Belgium franc (2.6 per cent) and the Italian lira (2.9 per cent). However, it depreciated against the U.S. dollar (5.7 per cent), the Deutsche mark (2.5 per cent) and the Japanese yen (11.5 per cent).

CSO: 4600/1039

NEED FOR 'CREDIBLE' REGIONAL PARTY IN ASSAM NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Sep 83 p 7

[Text]

GUWAHATI, Sept. 14.

The Asom Jatiyatabadi Dal (AJD), one of the constituents of the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP), which along with the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) is conducting an agitation on the foreigners issue in the State, recently announced the formal enrolment of some new members into the party. This was no routine accretion to the strength of the party which, even as it consists of a rather top heavy leadership; for one of the prize catches of the AJD is Mr. Dinesh Goswami, the Independent MP formerly belonging to the Congress. Other notables who joined the party along with Mr. Goswami are Mr. Prem Kanta Mahanta, a retired police official who while in service was identified as a supporter of the agitation, Mr. Bisheshwar Hazarika, professor of Assamese in a local college, Mr. Budhiram Tanti and Mr. Rasik Tanti leaders of the Assam Cha Mazdoor Sangh, and Assamese professionals and businessmen.

The argument that only a strong regional party can project the problems of Assam at the national level is not a new one; the AJD itself, with such an aim, was formed over six years ago. Now, apart from the AJD, the Purbanchaliya Lok Parishad (PLP, a constituent of the AAGSP) and the Ahom Tai Mongolia Parishad have similar regional perspectives though the PLP has also been trying to project, over and above an Assamese identity, a 'north-eastern' identity, conceiving the whole region as an integral social, economic and political unit.

One of the aims of the AJD is to try to bring all other regional parties together, presumably under its own leadership. Should it seriously pursue such an aim, the present balance of forces in the AAGSP is sure to be upset, having unpredictable consequences on its structure and power equations and, perhaps on the whole agitation itself. The AAGSP has till now been content with the role of a junior partner of the AASU-AAGSP combine, generally endorsing whatever decision the AASU has taken.

Charismatic leaders: The social base of the AJD essentially comprises the small urban Assamese entrepreneurial class, the self-employed professionals and sections of the bureaucracy. These groups, all very much anti-Congress (I), are frustrated by the absence of a credible political alternative to the Congress (I) with which they could identify themselves. Then there is the seemingly attractive (and relatively effortlessly contrived) model of regional formations under 'charismatic' leaders in other States—the latest being the NTR 'phenomenon'.

During the recent ceremonies held to admit new entrants, the AJD leaders pointed out that even national Opposition parties have been forced to take into account regional leaders like Mr. N. T. Rama Rao and Dr. Farooq Abdullah, and are trying to exploit the 'charismatic glory' of some of these regional leaders. There was distinct disappointment, even resentment over the fact that no leader from Assam had been invited to the NTR-summoned conclave of Opposition leaders. The expectation, is that the AJD will be invited to the next conclave of Opposition parties in Srinagar. Feelers in this regard have already been sent.

The compulsions are clear enough. The present impasse in Assam can only be broken by active political intervention, which the Congress party at the Centre is unable to make. This is the view of the agitation leaders who have for long maintained that the national parties have no relevance in Assam though in practice they have been hostile only to those national political parties which are 'anti-Assamese' and which demonstrated this by participating in the February elections.

At the same time, there is also the recognition, especially from those sections which feel as strongly about the substance of the demands of the agitation and have also suffered substantial material and other kinds of losses as a consequence of an unpredictably-conducted agitation. There is the urgent need for a regional political party in Assam which, not being tainted with national links, can conduct serious negotiations with the Centre.

The AASU, along with the AAGSP claims to speak for the whole people of the State. One of the major impediments to resumption of negotiations with the Centre is the insistence on the Centre's part, even while expressing its readiness to resume talks with the agitation leaders, that such talks should be held with 'all parties concerned', clearly a reference to the State Government and the genuine or created represented organisations of linguistic, religious and ethnic minorities. This is a claim which the AASU-AAGSP are at present unwilling to concede.

Possible merger: But the impasse, has to be broken only by a resumption of political dialogue. The AJD's decision to bestir itself and become demonstratively active may have been dictated by an appreciation of the role that a political party, especially a regional one with a credible base, could have in any future negotiations with the Centre on the foreigners issue.

What is being overlooked in all these calculations at the leadership-level is that corresponding regional formations elsewhere in the country only reflected the contradictions that the relatively strong and substantial regional bourgeois had begun to develop with the national bourgeois. The absence of a corresponding *class*, in political terms, has been the crucial inhibiting factor in the emergence and consolidation of regional forces as political formations in Assam, and in the north-east in general. This explains why strong regional parties, have more or less consented to become wings of the Congress (I) in the States: The ruling parties in Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunchal Pradesh had all been at one time or the other independent. The situation in Assam is of course different, especially in the context of the prolonged agitation over the last four years;

CSO: 4600/1040

INTERVIEW WITH CHAIRMAN OF NORTHEAST COUNCIL

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Sep 83 p 9

[Article by S. Guru Dev]

[Text] Shillong--The Chairman of the North-Eastern Council, Mr Prakash Mehrotra, is confident of the Council's catalytic role and future. The Council had "demonstrated the utility of a more informed and objective approach" to problems and brought home to the Central Ministries and organizations the special regional and socio-economic problems.

(The 11th anniversary of the Council is significant in the context of tribal or ethnic upsurge which can have curious manifestations. Meghalaya's Opposition leader, Mr B. B. Lyngdoh, for instance, speaks of the "imposition" of a railhead at Byrnihat at the foothills of Meghalaya. The "insult" to the people of Meghalaya is not readily understood since the clamour by Chief Ministers in the region for a railhead or extension of a railway line or conversion of the metre-gauge line is characteristic of the NEC's deliberations.)

The following are the NEC Chairman's answers to questions put to him:

[Question] Do you favour a structural change or will streamlining of the NEC do?

[Answer] From a small beginning in 1972, the activities of the North-Eastern Council have expanded considerably covering diverse fields of activities with mushroom cultivation on the one hand and improved study of science and mathematics on the other, including programmes like environmental balance and protection of rare plants and orchids. NEC schemes in the past 11 years have yielded encouraging results. The Secretariat has kept pace with needs. There is no thinking at present to effect any structural change.

[Question] Evaluation and accountability are essential for the health of the NEC. But the constituent units are alleging that their autonomy is being infringed. Comment.

[Answer] The individual agency, whether it is a department of the State/ U.T. Government or any other public sector agency (which is implementing a particular scheme) is accountable not only to the Council but audit. Such evaluation and monitoring have nothing to do with the autonomy of the units.

There were misgivings initially about the Council eroding the autonomy of the constituent units. It has been generally accepted now that there is no ground for apprehension that the Council imposes the will of the Central Government on the 7-member units.

Since the Chief Ministers, Governors and Lt.-Governors are members of the Council, a policy decision is collective. There is no scope to infringe State autonomy.

[Question] Are the sanctioning procedures of the Council cumbersome or time-consuming? Suggest improvements.

[Answer] Schemes sponsored by the Council are sanctioned according to the procedures laid down. They are:

(a) Schemes formulated by the States and Union Territories or executing agencies are scrutinized by the sectoral advisers of the Council in consultation with the financial adviser. They are discussed and approved by the development commissioners of the region. The Council gives its approval thereafter.

(b) Schemes are approved by the Working Group of the Planning Commission and the Ministry concerned.

After acceptance by the Planning Commission, the schemes are technically scrutinized. Administrative approval or technical sanction is issued by the Secretary, NEC, in consultation with his financial adviser.

[Question] The biennial meetings of the NEC look like Jamborees.

[Answer] The Council meetings, with representation from the seven States/ Union Territories and many Central Ministries/organizations have necessarily to be big gatherings but the endeavour is to secure the fullest participation of the administrations concerned, Central Ministries and other organizations. The meetings are generally fruitful and the discussions forceful, though cordial, and purposeful.

[Question] NEC meetings take place behind closed doors. Do you think such secrecy is necessary when an in-depth debate on the role and function of the Council, progress and constraints is essential for a healthy understanding and to encourage a dialogue with the community?

[Answer] The meetings of the Council are by no means public and its proceedings are confidential. The function of the Council to discuss frankly the agenda and give responsible advice will be adversely affected

if its proceedings are public and its deliberations accessible to the Press. A press conference after the meeting of the Council provides adequate opportunity to the media to acquaint itself with the decisions or conclusions of the meeting.

[Question] If a regional project is bogged down by political considerations, how would it be sorted out? Is zonal planning satisfactory? Integrated regional planning is a must but awareness of regional sensitivities is also important. How do you visualize the growth of the NEC in these circumstances?

[Answer] The Council is purely advisory, concerned by and large with socio-economic development. Since political considerations play a vital role in formulating developmental schemes in a democracy, instances cannot be ruled out where a project gets bogged down. Such a problem is solved either by informal consultations at various levels or advice from Central experts or through a detailed discussion in the Council meeting.

Zonal planning or regional planning like the one being experimented with and implemented in the North-Eastern Region is apparently the first of its kind in the country. Attaining perfection in any area, more so in a new experiment like this, is difficult, but the experience of the past few years clearly demonstrates that commonly felt grievances, problems and challenges can be overcome only through a commonly accepted programme.

[Question] What are the priorities laid down by the NEC?

[Answer] Over the years, transport and communication and development of power have had the highest priorities (80 percent of its expenditure). The other priorities are development of manpower and improvement of agricultural infrastructure.

[Question] What are the main achievements?

[Answer] The Council has been instrumental in completing the construction and improvement of over 1,500 km of road, including number of small and major RCC bridges and in persuading the Centre about extending the broad-gauge line to Gauhati and later to Dibrugarh.

The Council has sought construction of six new railway lines and three more bridges across the Brahmaputra. It is helping in harnessing hydel power and the region may soon be able to export power. It is investigating the mineral resources to encourage industrialization based on local resources. It has helped, to a great extent, in developing the manpower resources.

Above all, the Council has demonstrated the utility of a more informed and objective approach to problems, and brought home to the Central Ministries and organizations the special regional and socio-economic nature of the problems and the background of the constituent units of the Council.

CSO: 4600/1032

FOUR NEW MINISTERS APPOINTED IN TAMIL NADU

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] Madras, Sept. 8--The Tamil Nadu Governor, Mr. S. L. Khurana, today announced the appointment of four new Ministers. They are: Mr. R. Soundararajan, Mr. Y. S. M. Yusuff, Mr. K. Kalaimani and Mr. R. Arunachalam.

The Governor also said that he had accepted the resignation of Mr. K. Raja Mohamed from the State Cabinet as recommended by the Chief Minister Mr. M. G. Ramachandran. The resignation took effect this afternoon.

With the induction of the new Ministers, who will be sworn in at Raj Bhavan at 9.30 a.m. tomorrow, the strength of the State Cabinet will rise to 24.

The Chief Minister called on the Governor at Raj Bhavan around 5.30 p.m. and submitted to him the list of new Ministers. The Chief Secretary, Mr. K. Chockalingam, was present during the 30-minute meeting the Chief Minister had with the Governor. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Khurana announced the names of the new Ministers and their portfolios.

Mr. Soundararajan will be in charge of the nutritious noon meal scheme, while Mr. Yusuff takes over Irrigation and Wakf Board, held by Mr. Raja Mohamed who has been dropped from the Cabinet. Mr. K. Kalaimani has been assigned the portfolio of Fisheries, and Mr. Arunachalam will look after Rural Industries.

The expansion has resulted in the reshuffle of portfolios and creation of two new Ministries. Mr. K. A. Krishnaswamy, who parts with Rural Industries in favour of Mr. Arunachalam, will be left with the charge of Dairy Development. Mr. S. R. Radha, who until recently held the portfolio of Fisheries, will now head a new Ministry, Environment Pollution Control. The other new Ministry, "Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme," has been assigned to Mr. Soundararajan.

This is the second expansion of the Cabinet in two months. The first expansion took place on July 1 when three Ministers, Mr. S. R. Radha, Mr. M. R. Kovendan and Mrs. P. Vijayalakshmi were inducted.

Ex-Minister Back in Cabinet

Among the new Ministers, Mr. Yusuff and Mr. Kalaimani are members of the Legislative Council. The Cabinet will now have six Ministers who are members of the Council.

R. Soundararajan

Mr. Rajagopal Soundararajan, former Health Minister in the MGR Ministry, was born in Tirunelveli in December, 1933. He had his school and college education in Tiruchi. He was a member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly during 1977-80, and was Health Minister during 1978-80. He was a social worker and cine actor.

Y. S. M. Yusuff

Mr. Yacob Syed Mohamed Yusuff (42), member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council, was born at Panagudy in Tirunelveli district. He had his education in Palayamkottai. He had served as President of the Panagudy Town Panchayat and Vice-President of the Agro-Engineering Service Cooperative Centre, Valliyoor. He is an agriculturist.

R. Arunachalam

Mr. Ramaswamy Arunachalam (42) represents Namakkal (SC) constituency in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. He was born in Karaikuruchipudur where he had his school education. He is keenly interested in the uplift of Harijans and eradication of untouchability. He is a teacher by profession.

K. Kalaimani

Mr. K. Kalaimani (39) is an engineering graduate and hails from Killai village near Chidambaram. He is an alumnus of the Annamalai University. He had been President of the Killai Town Panchayat for 10 years, and he had also served the Killai Fisheries Cooperative Society as its President.

CSO: 4600/1033

BULGARIAN TRADE TEAM VISITS, SIGNS AGREEMENTS

Third Country Projects

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Sep 83 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 8.

Bulgaria has evinced interest in cooperating with Indian contractors and equipment suppliers for projects in third countries in a wide range of industries.

This was brought out at the Indo-Bulgarian conference which began here on Wednesday under the auspices of the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC). The conference was attended by 15 delegates from Bulgaria including the Bulgarian Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and 100 Indian project contractors and equipment suppliers.

Mr. T. A. S. Balagopal, EEPC Chairman, in his welcome address, suggested that delegates should make full use of the opportunity to identify potential areas of cooperation and work out areas to launch joint ventures.

Mr. Mani Narayanaswamy, Secretary (textiles) Ministry of Commerce, in his inaugural address, urged the delegates to explore all opportunities to promote India's exports of engineering goods to Bulgaria and also promote cooperation in projects in third countries.

Mr. Marin Djermanov, Chairman of the Society of the Bulgarian Engineering Organisations, indicated the keen interest of Bulgarian firms to work with Indian firms in projects in third countries.

Memorandum of understanding: The conference, which concluded on Thursday identified specific product and project sectors, geographical areas and partners on either side.

A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the EEPC and the Bulgarian Society of Engineering Organisation for exchange of information and maintaining dialogue for further mutual trade and cooperation in third country projects.

tion in third country projects.

Mr. T. A. S. Balagopal, Chairman, EEPC, said that in the civil engineering construction sector, the geographical areas identified were Syria, Libya, Iraq and Nigeria. The cooperation sought from Indian firms was in the form of equipment and material supply in some cases and in other cases, sub-contracting from the stage of tendering.

Technoexportstroy, which had bagged a contract for construction of a conference hall and hotel complex in Syria, valued at \$450 millions, (Rs. 450 crores) sought offers from Indian firms for earthmoving equipment and a number of other engineering items.

Syrian, Libyan projects: This Bulgarian firm also expected to bag another contract worth \$600 millions (Rs. 600 crores) for construction of three hospitals, 16 school buildings, an airport and an industrial plant as also construction of 4,000 flats in Syria and Libya. Offers were invited from India for a number of engineering items for this project also.

Bulgaria wanted Indian firms to bid for supply of wires, cables, airconditioning equipment, laying of pipelines and steel reinforcement, for grain silo projects in Libya, Iran and other countries.

Considerable interest was shown by the Bulgarian delegates in auto ancillaries, bicycle parts, 'V' belts, oil seals, pressure hoses, engine mountings, engine valves, flexible shafts, technograph equipment for tractors, forklifts, trucks, single spindle automatic lathes, vibration dumpers and painting system, manufactured in India.

Joint venture for mini-buses: The Bulgarian side also suggested a joint venture in India for manufacture of mini-buses

Accords Signed

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Sep 83 p 5

[Text] India and Bulgaria have signed agreements to enhance the volume of trade between the two countries.

This was disclosed in a joint release issued after the plenary session in the Capital on Saturday between the delegations of the two countries led by Bulgarian Economic Association chairman Ognian Doinov and Union Industry Minister N. D. Tiwari.

They also signed agreement for credit line of Rs 10 crores.

The trade agreement, seeking to diversify Indo-Bulgarian trade was signed by Mr A. S. Chatha, joint secretary in the Commerce Ministry for India and Mr Georgi Vutev, Bulgarian deputy minister of foreign trade.

The line of credit was signed between the Exim bank of India and the Foreign Trade Bank of Bulgaria.

The plenary session discussed the deliberations held by the five working groups at the first plenary session on 1 September and the understanding reached between the two sides.

Both the leaders expressed satisfaction with the deliberations of the working groups which would be helpful in preparing for the visit of Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov in December, the release said.

Both the leaders emphasised the need for effective follow up action by the concerned organisations in the two countries for the implementation of various projects and the programme of bilateral cooperation discussed between the two sides during the current visit, it said.

The two plenary sessions were held in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere, the release said.

During his ten-day stay in India, Mr Doinov led a multi-disciplinary expert delegation from his country.

Besides holding discussions with private and governmental organisations in the field of industry, Dr Doinov called on President Zail Singh, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Vice President M. Hidayatullah and Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jakhar.

He also held discussion with Union Ministers of Finance, Defence, External Affairs, Commerce, Energy and Science and Technology.

At the plenary session on Saturday Mr Tiwari said that the trade agreement with Bulgaria should serve as a model for agreements with other countries.

Mr Doinov expressed his satisfaction with the quality of Indian goods supplied to Bulgaria.

CSO: 4600/1033

INDIA

OFFICIAL NOTES WORK ON LIGHT COMBAT AIRCRAFT

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Sep 83 p 7

[Text]

VISAKHAPATNAM, Sept. 8.

India is working on light combat aircraft and by 1995 the defence wing will have a fully equipped squadron.

This was disclosed here today by Dr. V. S. Arunachalam, Scientific Advisor to the Defence Ministry, while presiding over the launching of INS "Astra Vahini", a multi-purpose research and torpedo launching and recovery vessel. This first research vessel built by a private shipping company for the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) is equipped with modern navigational aids and communication system.

Except the echo-sounder which is imported the entire design has been provided by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

During the silver jubilee year of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, most sophisticated main battle tanks, low level radars and automatic electronic warfare system designed and built in India will go on trial this year, Dr. Arunachalam said.

Dr. Sreenivasan, Director, NSTL, said "Astra Vahini" would relieve pressure on naval ships and give supporting facility for NSTL. He hoped NSTL would have a fleet of research ships.

Later talking to pressmen Dr. Arunachalam said the pilotless target aircraft under production is meant for target practice. — Our Staff Reporter.

CSO: 4600/1033

SEARCH FOR AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM INTENSIFIED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Sep 83 pp 1, 7

[Text] With the reported Pakistani acquisition of the most advanced Electronic Counter Measure (ECM) equipments and anti-radiation missiles for its F-16s, the Indian air defence planners' search for an Airborne Early Warning (AEW) system seems to have intensified, reports PTI.

Defence analysts quoting reputed Western literature on military hardware and US Congressional proceedings, say that Pakistan's F-16s are equipped with a formidable ECM system known as Alq-131.

The Alq-131 is especially designed for such targets as radars and guidance systems associated with anti-aircraft defence systems. The 'Jane's' says there are a number of different modules for each version of the Pod 'providing for jamming of all known anti-aircraft missile system frequency bands'.

A single receiver-processor module not only detects Radar but also directs the optimum jamming programme.

Other unique features of the Alq-131 are that it has a self-contained power management feature and an ability to be reprogrammed in response to threat changes while in flight.

Analysts say that Pak F-16s equipped with Alq-131 and 'Shrike' anti-radiation, air-to-surface missiles intended for the destruction of ground Radars constitute a 'new threat' to Indian missiles defence and 'decrease considerably' India's air-defence capability.

In an environment where Pak's improved Mirage-IIIs and Mirage-50s operating in tandem with F-16s such uncertainties could be serious they caution.

It is in this context that the acute need for AEW system has been felt. Analysts point out that wars in recent years, particularly the Lebanese war last year, have been an eye-opener for the Indian defence planners.

Authoritative accounts of the air battles over Bekka Valley have it that the loss of over 80 Syrian aircraft as against just two of the Israeli plane loss, was largely attributable to the role played by a US AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) plane loaned to Israel.

In present day battle-field conditions, where electronic warfare has become a crucial element, the role of AWACS which incorporates communication and control besides early warning (AEW) is considered vital.

Among the AEW/AWACS under Indian consideration, the Soviet IL-76 is said to figure prominently.

With a rotating 'saucer' radome, lengthened fuselage forward of the wing and flight refuelling probe several IL-76 AWACS are reported to be in operation in the Soviet forces.

Reports also say that the Soviets might use their wide-bodied IL-86 for mounting a larger version AWACS.

PTI's report from London inform that Britain is offering to sell an airborne early warning system to India, using HS-748 which will considerably reduce the costs of the expensive system.

Britain's Minister for Defence procurement Geoffrey Pattie told PTI in an interview in London that preliminary discussions had taken place between the two countries on this question. A British team was likely to visit India next month to continue the talks.

CSO: 4600/1037

INDIA'S OPTION ON AWACS SEVERELY LIMITED

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 18 Sep 83 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 17--Notwithstanding India's urgent need to acquire an Airborne Early Warning System, the Defence Ministry's options are severely limited.

The question is not whether the Indian Air Force should have an Airborne Early Warning and Control System but how to get it and from where. According to Defence experts, India's need to counter the advanced surveillance capabilities of its neighbours is now much greater than before and, therefore, an early decision is necessary to equip the country's Air Force with the latest sophisticated equipment of Airborne Early Warning System or Airborne Early Warning and Control System. The report of Pakistan's intention to purchase American Grumman E-2 Hawkeye aircraft has made the Ministry sit up and think over an alternative to counter the threat. This aircraft was given to Israel and had played a significant role in last year's Lebanon air war, destroying 84 Syrian aircraft.

Pakistan is also reported to be trying to acquire even more sophisticated system from the USA. The acquisition of F-16 aircraft has already made things worse as there is hardly any "reaction time" for the Indian Air Force to counter the threat. If India also succeeds in getting AEW or AWACS, the "reaction time" will be much more (seven to eight minutes) considered to be sufficient to "take on" the F-16.

Experts say that even if an early decision to have AEWS or AWACS was taken then it would take at least two to five years to equip the Air Force with the equipment. They caution that the Defence Minister should have to be extra vigilant about the system to be acquired. Whatever system the Ministry chooses, it should not become obsolete in the next 20 to 25 years, according to them.

The Defence sources say that the Research and Development Department is attempting to equip Avro aircraft with the AEW system. However, experts are of the view that the Avro, which the country acquired in 1962, is not suited to the purpose. One Defence expert went to the extent of saying that there is no point in wasting time over the project seeking to equip Avro with AEW. Avro is an old aircraft and is expected to be phased out

by the turn of the century. Secondly, the Avro flies at the height of 15,000 ft to 20,000 ft. In view of India's mountainous border areas, the requirement is for an aircraft which can fly at the height of 10,000 ft to 30,000 ft.

Thus, the present experiment to equip Avro with AEW becomes an exercise in futility as the aircraft will be ineffective in the northern sector where the height of mountains range between 20,000 ft and 22,000 ft. In the Himalayan region, the aircraft will have to fly at the height of 30,000 ft. The country's highest Army post is located at the height of 21,000 ft.

Coming back to limited options which India has in acquiring AEW or AWACS, the country can tap Britain, France, Italy and West Germany besides the USSR to develop an effective system. The idea is to acquire different equipment radar, antenna, communication system, computer from these countries and assemble them in one aircraft. The latest and perhaps the most sophisticated system is AWACS of the USA which India is not likely to get. Experts say that the Soviet system is not very advanced or sophisticated and it is not clear what Moscow will offer India eventually.

One factor weighting in the mind of defence officials is that whatever system is chosen finally, it will have to be ensured that India should not face problems for getting spares in future. Experts are, however, confident that India has the capability to develop indigenously the radar once a suitable system is imported.

The basic requirement is for an aircraft that could carry a powerful radar equipped with large antenna and stay aloft for a long period. The aircraft should have sufficient space for a number of radar operators.

CSO: 4600/1049

DELAY IN TIGHTENING CURBS ON FOREIGN DONATIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Sep 83 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 11.

The Centre is convinced that the law seeking to regulate the flow of foreign contributions has not proved effective, but although it has been thinking of removing loopholes, practical steps have not been possible so far.

Inquiries from official sources do not provide a firm indication as to when and how the seven-year-old Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act is proposed to be amended. The Home Ministry had decided to put more teeth to the legislation over two years ago when it was headed by Mr. Zail Singh.

An official note says: "A review of the enforcement of the Act during the last four years has brought out the need for amending certain provisions and strengthening the administrative arrangements to ensure a more effective monitoring of the flow of funds and to see that such funds are not used for purposes other than those for which they were received."

Three categories: Under the existing law, there are three categories of organisations and individuals, receiving donations, to be treated differently according to the degree of sensitivity. First, political parties and their office-bearers, journalists, members of legislatures, Government employees and candidates for elections are prohibited from accepting funds

from abroad. Second, organisations of political nature, not being a political party" can accept foreign contributions after prior permission of the Central Government. Third, associations, "with a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programmes" may accept money from other countries, but have to intimate to the Government the details like the amount, the source and the purpose for which the funds are intended to be utilised.

The law, it is felt, has not been effective in regard to the last two categories. Nearly 4,000 organisations submit returns to the Government, as required under the Act, every year, but the official machinery is not sufficiently equipped to cope with the processing of the documents. As a result, cases of default are either not detected or not detected on time. At present, 141 organisations falling in the second category require prior permission before accepting money from abroad.

Enlarging the list: Official sources explain that the Centre has the power to include new organisations and individuals in any of the three categories, if the flow of foreign funds are likely to affect prejudicially (1) the sovereignty and integrity of the country (2) public interest (3) freedom or fairness of elections (4) friendly relations with a foreign State and (5) harmony between religious, racial, linguistic or regional groups, castes or communities.

CSO: 4600/1037

RAJIV STRESSES NEED TO PRESERVE INDEPENDENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Sep 83 p 7

[Text] Jaipur, Sept 19--Congress-I general secretary Rajiv Gandhi has stressed the need for preserving the national independence and sovereignty in the present tense international situation.

He was addressing the open session of the national convention of the 'Akhil Bharatiya Safai Mazdoor Congress' here today.

He said at present only the country which does not succumb to the foreign pressures command respect. Referring to the erosion of the democratic rights of the people in various parts of the world including our neighbouring countries, he observed that perhaps India was the only country where people enjoyed real freedom and democracy.

If India had to go forward in the right direction, it would have to preserve its freedom which was possible 'only through making the country strong by uplifting the downtrodden,' Mr Gandhi added.

Pointing to the growing huge expenditure on armaments, he said this money otherwise could have been used for developmental activities.

Referring to the recent downing of the Korean airliner he said that everybody was sorry over the incident but for all such things international tension is responsible.

Lashing out at the recent Opposition alliance and its front Mr Gandhi observed that soon after visiting the US, Opposition leaders were busy in forging alliances. Perhaps they were influenced by the US but, he continued amidst laughter that in India 'jora' (couple) is for the whole lifetime unlike in the US and as such these 'joras' (alliances) would break soon since these are opportunistic and selfish ones.

Mr Gandhi warned the people against those politicians who divided the people on the basis of caste, religion and communal sentiments. 'We want such leaders who do not exploit our weakness but on the contrary remove them,' he added.

Earlier Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Buta Singh who is also the national president of the Safai Mazdoor Congress addressed the convention.

CSO: 4600/1054

REPORT ON VISITING FRG ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, September 20--The West German minister for economic co-operation, Dr. Juergen Warnke, today described India as his country's "biggest co-operation partner" for the past 20 years and expressed the hope that the bilateral relationship would not only be maintained but strengthened further.

Dr. Warnke said that West Germany had given Rs. 3,200 crores in bilateral aid to India besides contributing its share of funds for the International Development Association (IDA) and other international and multilateral institutions. This share worked out to Rs. 2,000 crores in two decades.

In 1984, West Germany would give about Rs. 180 crores in bilateral aid to India.

Next year, West Germany would give a special accent on co-operation with India since India would be the "guest country" at the well-known Hanover fair. This would help promote Indian exports and make this country known better to the people of West Germany.

Dr. Warnke said that West German experts would soon visit New Delhi to advise Indian participants on the preparations for the fair.

At his meeting with the Union commerce minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Dr. Warnke said that his government would allow 25 per cent of the Indian exhibits to be sold in West Germany, after the fair.

The West German minister pointed out that the number of collaboration projects between the two countries totalled 110 in 1982. He conceded that there was still greater potential for such projects.

Dr. Warnke said India had not asked West Germany for the supply of spare parts for the Tarapur nuclear power plant. Nor had India asked it to set up a steel plant on the pattern of Rourkela. "If India asks us, we are prepared to look into the matter," he said.

Dr. Warnke felt that the investment climate in India was quite favourable, especially since the "deregulation" measures were announced two years ago. His government would encourage private capital transfers to India with special emphasis on small and medium firms.

Referring to bilateral trade, he conceded that Indian exports had declined slightly but pointed out that imports from West Germany had declined "considerably more." He said the deutschemark was undervalued and he anticipated Indian exports to, and imports from, West Germany to grow in the near future.

Dr. Warnke expressed satisfaction at the outcome of his ten-day visit to India.

CSO: 4600/1054a

STEPS TAKEN AGAINST PAKISTAN ANTI-INDIA CAMPAIGN

Envoy Called to Foreign Office

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Sep 83 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Sept. 9--India today told Pakistan that the anti-India tirade launched in that country by leaders of the Government was not conducive to normalization of relations between the two countries. A slander campaign against this country by these leaders during the past few weeks had put needless strain on bilateral relations at a time when both sides were trying to minimize the areas of divergence between them, Pakistan was told.

The Pakistani Ambassador here, Mr Riaz Piracha, was called to the Foreign Office today to be told by Mr Natwar Singh, Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry and a former Ambassador to Pakistan, that the utterances of various Ministers of General Zia's Government during the past few days had become more vitriolic and detrimental to the process of normalization.

Mr Natwar Singh is understood to have brought to the Ambassador's notice in particular the speeches delivered by the Pakistani Ministers of Defence, Information, Petroleum and Labour. Such verbal recklessness as displayed by these Pakistani Ministers was bound to affect bilateral ties.

India, Mr Piracha was told, was committed to the growth of good and friendly relations with Pakistan. The question of India wishing to interfere in the internal affairs of another country--particularly Pakistan--as had been repeatedly stated by the Prime Minister did not arise. Bearing in mind India's commitment to the principles of non-alignment, it was shocking to find senior members of Gen. Zia's Government indulging in a hysterical anti-India campaign.

While India still stood by its commitment to foster friendly relations with Pakistan the intemperate language used by some of the Pakistani Ministers gave rise to the belief that Pakistan was perhaps having second thoughts about the process.

Mr Natwar Singh is believed to have taken exception to some pronouncements by one of the Ministers, Rao Farman Ali, who had alleged that India, "which

spoke in the name of democracy," had been ruled by a single "dynasty" since Independence; another Minister had questioned India's bona fides as member and current Chairman of the non-aligned movement.

In sum, Mr Natwar Singh is believed to have made it clear to Mr Piracha that if one is to go by the viciousness of the anti-India campaign being currently carried on in Pakistan, India could only infer that Pakistan was not interested in normalizing relations with this country. He requested the Ambassador to convey New Delhi's strong exception to the tone and tenor of the campaign and he expressed the hope that it would be immediately halted.

Analyst Describes Allegations

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 9--The Government of India took strong exception today to the insinuations of Gen. Zia-Ul-Haq and his Ministers that it had "instigated" the current unrest in Pakistan and had been harbouring some of the leaders of the agitation who were bent on dismembering that country at India's instance.

The Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. K. Natwar Singh, called the Pakistan Ambassador, Mr. Riaz Piracha, to convey the Government's indignation over these "reckless and irresponsible" accusations that were straining Indo-Pakistan relations.

The Ambassador did not try to justify these baseless charges, but made a brave attempt to explain them away by saying that India, too, had been indulging in such unfortunate pronouncements, which amounted to interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan. He also referred in this context to what the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, had said about the recent events in Pakistan.

Mr. Natwar Singh drew the attention of the Ambassador to the highly objectionable observations of the Ministers of Defence, Information and Broadcasting, Labour and Petroleum in Pakistan which, in his view, were most unfortunate to say the least since they impinged adversely on Indo-Pakistan relations. He assured the Pakistan envoy that India remained fully committed to having good neighbourly relations with his country and the question of any interference in its internal affairs did not arise.

Unfounded: It was not merely the seriousness of the Pakistani accusations that irked India but the frequency with which these totally unfounded allegations were being repeated by Gen. Zia and his colleagues to invent and sustain the bogey of Indian involvement in the current popular agitation for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan. The Government of India, therefore, felt it necessary to officially voice its displeasure over the

orchestration of this anti-Indian propaganda by the ruffled military regime in Pakistan.

After Gen. Zia himself set the tone for this campaign with his oblique references to alleged Indian interference, the Pakistani Defence Minister, Mr. Ali Ahmed Talpur, said that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leaders who fled the country were hiding in India which had instigated the present agitation. The Labour Minister, Mr. Ghulam Dastgir Han, went a step further in saying that this Indian sponsored agitation in Sind was aimed at creating a "Sindhudesh" to draw a disquieting parallel of what happened in 1971.

The Information and Broadcasting Minister, Raja Mohammed Zafrul Haq, said that the big power (India) which was presently heading the non-aligned movement was blatantly violating all its principles by attempting to brow-beat and harass its small neighbours like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. He claimed that the recent statements of the Indian leaders exposed the anti-Pakistan character of the current agitation.

The Petroleum Minister, retired Major-General Rao Farman Ali Khan, one of the notorious tormentors of Bangladesh who was responsible for the break up of old Pakistan, exceeded all bounds of decency when he said: "The Indian leaders should set their own house right before meddling in the affairs of others. How can anyone call a country democratic in which for the last 36 years one family was ruling? It would be better if a kingdom was established in that country. Mrs. Indira Gandhi has no right to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan."

Denial of rights: Despite the continued denial of basic democratic rights to its people, the military dictatorship in Pakistan has been professing its complete adherence to the principles of non-alignment and the spirit of the Simla agreement. The Zia regime has also been privately pressing for a resumption of the talks on a no-war pact, little realising that there can be no worthwhile dialogue on a treaty of friendship, or even a limited agreement of non-aggression, when India is being openly accused of interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan.

It is a sad reflection on Pakistan's own concept of non-interference that the President of Cyprus has written to Mrs. Gandhi, in her capacity as chairperson of NAM, protesting vehemently against Gen. Zia's remark in Ankara the other day that Pakistan would be the first to recognise an independent Turkish State if and when it is set up in the occupied part of this Mediterranean island nation.

CSO: 4600/1035

DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN GANDHI, KASHMIR LEADER NOTED

Qasim Quits Congress-I

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Syed Mir Qasim, who resigned from the Congress-I on Tuesday night, said on Wednesday that he was not joining any political party or front.

Mr Qasim said he had sent in his resignation to Congress-I president Indira Gandhi on Tuesday night to quit from the primary membership of the party with which he had been associated for the last two decades.

He said he had met various leaders of the four-party United Front, but was not joining it.

As regards the National Conference, Mr Qasim said he considered it a 'movement' which was in the interest of Jammu and Kashmir and the country as a whole, and as such he would continue to support it from outside.

Mr Qasim, who was the member of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party, in his talk with this reporter was emphatic that he would 'remain in active politics' but at the national scene.

On Thursday, he added, he would formally announce his severing of connections with the Congress-I at a press conference and would also release several letters that were exchanged between him and Mrs Gandhi during the past few months.

He deplored that the Congress-I leadership had given a go to what he called the Congress ethos and culture which had helped in national integration and in its secular outlook.

Mir Qasim who joined Congress in 1964 and established the party unit in Jammu and Kashmir, had sided with Mrs Gandhi when the party came in for second split after the 1977 parliamentary elections debacle.

However, serious differences had grown between him and the Congress-I leadership during the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls as the Mir was for

an electoral understanding between his party and the National Conference against the wishes of the State unit and the Central leadership of the party.

The differences between them grew to the extent that he refused to go in for canvassing for the party candidates in the Assembly elections which had led to an outcry against him from the State and Central leadership as some of the party members had openly sought his expulsion from the Congress-I.

The parting of the ways from the Congress-I came following exchange of letters between him and Mrs Gandhi over the party issues and in which he had suggested a meeting between him with Mrs Gandhi.

Mrs Gandhi, however, did not meet him when he came over to Delhi on last Saturday to seek an appointment with her. He had put a deadline of three days which ended on Tuesday night when he sent in his resignation from the party.

Immediately after the resignation, Democratic Socialist Party president H. N. Bahuguna, who has been in constant touch with Mr Qasim for several months met him. Congress-S general secretary Ambika Soni and president of Jammu and Kashmir Panthers' Party Bhim Singh, MLA, also called on him.

Gandhi-Qasim Correspondence

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Sep 83 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, September 15--The long correspondence between the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and Syed Mir Qasim, who has just quit the Congress(I), reveals basic differences of approach and assessment like, for instance over the Kashmir accord of 1975.

Mrs. Gandhi rejects the Mir's views that the accord meant that the Congress should fade into oblivion in Jammu and Kashmir and states that the Mir's version of the accord as given by him to Sheikh Abdullah and then to Dr. Farooq Abdullah "is the root cause of the trouble that developed between us and the national conference." "This is what lay behind the National Conference's arrogance of power," she remarks in her long reply of July 2, 1983, to the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

Regretting that the Mir was employing the same stock phrases and striking the same posture "as come naturally to our detractors," Mrs. Gandhi asks him whether he has forgotten the farce enacted by the opposition parties "in the name of Gandhian values."

Syed Mir Qasim, however, in his reply of July 17, 1983 refutes the suggestion that he had his own "version" of the accord which he had persuaded the Sheikh to accept. "Sheikh Saheb was too tall in stature to have entered into a surreptitious deal with any individual," he says while denying that he had "misled" Mrs. Gandhi and the Congress Party about the nature of his talks with the Sheikh at the time of the accord.

In his letter to Mrs. Gandhi following the Garhwal by-election where his new-found friend, Mr. H. N. Bahuguna, was a candidate, Syed Mir Qasim writes: "One such recent event (of loss of credibility) which has saddened me is the debacle at the Garhwal by-election. Our party and that of our principal opponent have been accusing each other of violence, booth-capturing and other serious irregularities but the verdict has gone against us, not against them."

"The election commission in its order has held allegations of booth-capturing against us as established. There is no such finding against our opponent. In the face of such a declaration by a constitutional authority, our contentions lose credibility. Indeed, it is much worse. The verdict of the election commission raised doubts even among the people about our sincerity to uphold the democratic norms that we are pledged to do."

In this letter running into a little over four pages, the Mir also talks of "the new Frankensteins" being created which restricted the capacity to fight poverty. He speaks about the "failure of the bearer bonds scheme," poor procurement in a year of bumper harvest, creation of artificial shortages, and severely criticises the wheat imports of 1.5 million tonnes as a measure which squanders foreign exchange and which confesses government's failure to discipline traders who indulge in hoarding and blackmarketing.

In his letter of June 9, 1980, Syed Mir Qasim begins by congratulating her on the party's stupendous poll victory, lauds her charismatic personality and expresses the hope that she continues to guide the nation towards the fulfilment of its dreams. He lays emphasis on his proposal to make the constitutional provision of right to work a justiciable fundamental right in phases extending over, say, 15 years. A beginning could be made by providing the right to work to landless tillers and educated unemployed in selected areas of the country.

Plea on Kashmir

Mrs. Gandhi, in her reply of June 28, 1980, points out that development plans to create additional jobs must be related to economic and social development. The national rural employment programme announced in the budget should cater to unskilled workers in rural areas, she says. About unemployed educated youth, she says that the planning commission had set up a working group to examine this problem and to draw up a medium-term manpower strategy for absorption of educated youth in productive employment.

It is in his letter of June 18, 1983, that Syed Mir Qasim raises a host of political issues mainly pertaining to his home state. In this letter, the Mir appeals to Mrs. Gandhi to make an "agonising reappraisal" of policies and approaches and for stopping the "process of drift and deterioration." He pays tribute to her "towering personality in the international arena" and lauds the non-aligned meeting's success but says that the domestic situation is far from satisfactory.

Tracing the political developments in Kashmir from August 9, 1953, when the Sheikh was incarcerated, the Mir refers to the efforts of Mr. Motilal Misri, a freedom fighter who sat beside him at today's crowded press conference, to hold discussions with the Sheikh for a meeting with Mr. Nehru.

Detailing his efforts to bring about the accord with the Sheikh in 1975, Mir Qasim points out that a section of the state Congress (I) "found it difficult to reconcile to the new situation" as it "wanted to cling to power" and accused him of being the "arch villain" of the "drama" in which "we had to relinquish positions of privilege to make way for others."

"I was never forgiven for this and immediately after the transfer of power to Sheikh Saheb and his colleagues, leaders of this section started a simmering campaign of vilification against me," he said, "and there is unimpeachable evidence to indicate that the state unit of the Congress (I) has ever since been consistently following the spirit of the accord more in its breach than in its observance."

The Mir described as an "imprudent stance" the state Congress (I) vehemently criticising the Sheikh for withdrawing the ration subsidy in phases and maintains that this was the "first signal to embark on the adventurist course of confrontation with the government we had ourselves installed in power."

The Mir decries the Congress (I) spurning the Sheikh's offer to form a coalition government with the former and regrets that even Mrs. Gandhi publicly levelled the charge of a "clandestine understanding" between the Sheikh and the BJP, a charge which embittered the Sheikh. He also laments over the withdrawal of support by the Congress (I) to the Sheikh in 1977.

Yet another cause for grievance was that the Congress (I) actually supported the candidature of an opposition nominee for the Rajya Sabha, though it had earlier agreed to support the National Conference nominee, the Mir pointed out. Though the Sheikh was accused of collusion with the BJP, it was actually the Congress (I) in the state that had joined hands with the same political elements to defeat the NC candidate, he said.

P.M. Blamed

Referring to the recent assembly poll, he said that both the sides had failed to restrain themselves from entering into a "fratricidal election contest" and becoming the instruments in polarising the politics in the state along regional and communal lines. "The greater responsibility of exercising such restraint was ours," he says, especially because the NC leadership had passed into the youthful hands of Dr. Farooq Abdullah. Here, he blames Mrs. Gandhi for "escalating" tension in the state by her "vigorous role in the election campaign." But the group in the Congress (I) opposed to him could not now escape responsibility for the tragic post-election state of affairs in the state, he points out, conceding hastily that the Congress (I) had polled a sizable amount of votes in the valley as well.

Regretting that the Congress (I) and NC flags could not fly together in the poll campaign and that "wreckers in our party got approbation and encouragement." The Mir states that the attempt at "quarantining" the valley from Jammu was also behind many of the designs sponsored by Western imperialist powers. "The co-called Dizon plan is an instance in point," he remarks.

In her reply of July 2, Mrs. Gandhi begins by stating that "memory can be convenient sometimes." In its significance, the accord was not limited to the state but had the broader dimension of national unity and integrity and "that is why we did not hesitate to give up power in J and K."

"Unfortunately, some among us, including yourself, did not view events in this larger perspective. From its very inception, the policy of historic reconciliation was covertly opposed by those who felt threatened about their political future. An atmosphere was created in which it was made to appear that reconciliation would not work. It was Sadiq Saheb who had the vision to realise the full significance of this policy of reconciliation to which I was fully committed. It was said at that time you worked against Sadiq Saheb and that you tried to divide the party," Mrs. Gandhi says.

Indira "Misled"

Asserting that the Mir had "misled" her and the Congress Party about the nature of his talks with Sheikh Saheb, Mrs. Gandhi said that what was meant to be a broad-based unity of secular and democratic forces in the state of which the Congress was undoubtedly a major representative, turned out to be a patched-up settlement which left the Congress without any significant representation in the cabinet and virtually led to the exit of the party from the J & K political scene, where it had played a special role in upholding the basic values of the Naya Kashmir movement, Mrs. Gandhi observed. The accord "certainly did not mean that the Congress should fade into oblivion" and "I did not and cannot accept this interpretation of the accord," the Prime Minister remarked. But this seemed to be the Mir's view.

"What was worse was that you succeeded in persuading Sheikh Saheb and later Dr. Farooq Abdullah to accept your version," she says. "This is the root of the trouble that developed between us and the National Conference. This is what lay behind the National Conference's arrogance of power," she added.

Mrs. Gandhi poses a question to Mir Qasim after she explains that the 1983 assembly elections should be seen against this background and asserts that it was the duty of all Congress workers to fight for secular and democratic unity of the country. "Would we have carried any credibility had we done what you prompted i.e. abandon the battle in the valley?" she asks.

"By surrendering to those who had no compunction in aligning themselves with communal and other divisive elements, we would not have served the cause of secularism," she replies.

"Party Culture"

The Prime Minister said: "The basic question was whether or not Congress as a secular and democratic party would continue to function as a significant political force in J and K. No national leader of the Congress had doubts that anything that came in the way of such functioning had to be met effectively. It was our impression that you agreed with this approach, for as a member of the central parliamentary board, you supported our election strategy. Later, you had second thoughts. The Congress culture and ethos, to which you have referred, is not for retreat when confronted by difficulties."

Pointing out that the BJP has been routed in Jammu, Mrs. Gandhi asks the Mir: "Is this not a major victory for secular forces?" Maintaining that the electorate had been politically educated during the poll on the correct path of development for the state and also pointing out that winning or losing an election was not as important as this kind of an education, she asked whether this had not been achieved against heavy odds. Why should it depress and agitate Mir Qasim if the Congress (I) had emerged as a party full of vigour and enthusiasm?

"The party rejected the suicide pact which it was being offered," Mrs. Gandhi says and its increased strength had "successfully repelled the efforts of those who were seeking to politically segregate the valley from the rest of the state and from the country."

CSO: 4600/1041

MEMORANDUM ON ARMS DEAL REPORTEDLY SIGNED IN LONDON

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by K. N. Malik]

[Text] London, September 15--Britain and India have concluded a memorandum of understanding regarding supply of defence equipment and spare parts and provision of technology and training facilities over the next three years.

Though British sources deny such a memorandum has been signed and Indian sources do not confirm, the two countries signed it in India a week ago, according to knowledgeable sources. A defence team from Britain is leaving for India for follow-up action.

India's defence minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, will also be visiting London next month for talks with his counterpart here. He will visit some defence establishments in the U.K. during his stay.

The memorandum lists the conditions for sale and transfer of technology and for imparting training which would enable the two countries to buy or sell without going through the usual process of bilateral discussions at the highest level for each and every item.

So far, the two sides have negotiated each deal on an ad hoc basis, which meant prolonged discussions on prices and terms and conditions. This resulted in undue delay, of several years in some cases, and brought into the picture arms brokers who were only too eager to make a fast buck by seeking to influence officials and politicians with offers of under-the-counter commissions.

This happened when India purchased Jaguars, Mirage-2000s, submarines (from Germany), Sea Harriers, Sea King helicopters and Sea Eagle missiles.

Such memoranda have been signed by India with the Soviet Union, which is its biggest arms supplier.

More Jaguars

Britain is offering India the Nimrod aircraft (which has been modified for early warning, surveillance and reconnaissance roles), more Sea Harriers,

Sea King helicopters and Sea Eagle missiles, technology for India's main battlefield tank (MBT) and facilities for the assembly or manufacture of light combat aircraft.

India would certainly go ahead with the purchase of Sea Harriers, Sea Kings and Sea Eagle missiles and also acquire more Jaguars. Besides, it would need extensive training facilities for using this equipment.

It also wants to acquire technology for the assembly and testing of its MET. It has the gun and some parts for the project, but is looking for a suitable engine and certain other vital parts for completing it.

India has not evinced interest in British engines. But it certainly would like to have assembly and testing technology from Britain. India is said to be interested in Germany's Leopard-II engines. Since these are not likely to be available to India, it might go in for Leopard-I engines.

India is also looking around for technology relating to 155-MM self-propelled guns. Britain is collaborating with Germany and Italy for production of SP-70 guns. It is, however, unlikely that these guns would be made available to India. New Delhi is trying to acquire similar guns from the U.S. and some European countries.

As far as light combat aircraft is concerned, it is not certain whether India would like to enter into collaboration with Britain or to go ahead with the purchase of some aircraft already available in the market.

India's interest in acquiring an early warning system is urgent. It has, however, not yet made up its mind whether it should immediately purchase the Nimrod (Rs. 50 crores each) or try to go in for a contract for the mounting of an early warning system on its existing HS-748 aircraft or the newly opted Dornier aircraft.

India is already negotiating with a British firm, Marconi, for the possible mounting of an early warning system on IAF aircraft. The snag here is that these aircraft--the Avros and the Dornier--were not built for this role.

CSO: 4600/1041

SPECIAL REPORT ON PLANS TO FENCE BANGLADESH BORDER

Will Barrier Be Foolproof

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Sep 83 p 17

[Article by Nitish Chakravarty]

[Text] The Union Government's decision to build a barbed wire fence along the Bangladesh border reflects its awareness of the alarming proportions of illegal infiltration which can no longer be dealt with through conventional methods. Attempts to cross the border clandestinely have been a continuous phenomenon ever since partition and so have been efforts to deal with the problem.

As many as 3,75,861 illegal infiltrators were detected in Assam alone during the 30 years from 1952 to 1981. Of them 3,19,776 were deported to Bangladesh. Detection work was most intensive during the decade 1961-71 when 2,39,107 persons were traced and 1,91,898 expelled from India. In the next decade detections and deportations numbered 1,15,031 and 1,07,771 respectively.

Yet large numbers of unauthorised persons have escaped detection and managed to stay on in India. Many are still crossing over into India, especially into West Bengal, from Bangladesh. Bangladesh authorities of course do not agree and expectedly have begun to air complaints that the fence will be a reflection of their bona fides.

Helpful to Migrants

The vastness of the border coupled with the absence of any natural barrier for long stretches comes in handy for clandestine movements. The India-Bangladesh land boundary, including rivers and other water channels, adds up to a massive 3,900 km, longer than the eastern seaboard from Rameswaram to the Sunderbans.

The longest stretch of 2,100 km is in the West Bengal sector. Next to it is 900 km long in Tripura, which is ringed on three sides by Bangladesh. Mizoram has a common boundary of 300 km and Meghalaya of 400 km with Bangladesh. The Assam sector (270 km) is the shortest but is perhaps the most intensively used for large scale crossings.

Fortunately there is no dispute with Bangladesh over the land boundary. All outstanding disputes were resolved through the agreement of May 16, 1974. Most stretches have been demarcated and pillars have also been dug. Of course there is the pending problem of leasing out to Bangladesh certain enclaves on a permanent basis. The Union Government is awaiting the decision of the Calcutta High Court on the matter.

Not New

But for the agitation launched by the All Assam Students' Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad nearly four years ago on the foreigners issue, the Government would not have woken up to the problem of infiltration. It would have continued to be handled in much the same lackadaisical way as in the past. The proposal to put up permanent obstacles to prevent infiltration, though announced now, was decided during the talks with the AASU and the AAGSP.

The following is the text of the draft that was approved at a meeting between the Government and AASU and AAGSP representatives on January 20, 1982:

"The international border shall be made secure against future infiltration by erection of physical barriers like walls, barbed wire fencing and other obstacles at appropriate places. Patrolling by security forces on land and riverine routes all along the international border shall be adequately intensified. In order to further strengthen the security arrangements, to prevent effectively future infiltration, an adequate number of check-posts shall be set up.

Road Along Border

"Besides the arrangements mentioned above and keeping in view security considerations, a road all along the international border shall be constructed to facilitate patrolling by security forces. The land between the border and the road would be kept free of human habitation wherever possible. Riverine patrolling along the international border would be intensified. All effective measures would be adopted to prevent infiltrators from crossing or attempting to cross the international border."

Since the negotiations were aimed at working out a package deal, there was an impression that the Government was under no obligation to implement the January 20, 1982 draft accord unless an agreement was reached on all other pending issues. But though the last round of the talks with the AASU and the AAGSP on January 5, 1983 was abortive, the Government felt it could not drag its feet on so vital an issue as prevention of illegal infiltration.

The new Assam Ministry also began to put pressure on the Centre to do something to seal the border. So a working group was set up to go into details and the modalities of implementing the assurances contained in the 1982 draft accord. The working group after taking all relevant aspects into consideration and with the concurrence of the External Affairs Ministry recommended that fencing of the border was a feasible proposition.

Legislation

The proposal now cleared by the Cabinet envisages the construction of eight-foot high barbed wire fence along the entire length of the border with Bangladesh except about 600 km or so of water courses where such fencing is not possible. Of course the land customs checkpoints numbering 33 will continue to exist to enable bona fide travellers holding appropriate documents to cross the border.

Legislative action is under way to enable the Government to acquire a 100 metre wide stretch of land through the entire length of the boundary and to demolish any structure that might exist there. This will become some kind of a depopulated zone but people living in adjoining Indian territory will be free to grow crops on the 100 metre wide stretch, for it would be against the national interest to leave such a vast tract of fertile land fallow.

The working group also considered the feasibility of raising a wall. Apart from the fact that the only other instance of a wall on the international boundary line is the one which divides West Berlin from East Germany, the working group came to the conclusion that the barbed wire fence might be a better alternative. The possible reaction in Bangladesh to a wall was also taken note of. Under an Indo-Bangladesh agreement no defence structures are to be built by either country within 125 metres of the border. Though a wall is not a defence fortification, the working group opted for the fence which would hide nothing from Bangladesh observers.

Cost of Scheme

In the first phase construction is expected to be taken up in the Assam and West Bengal sectors. The chief engineers and other senior officials concerned with the construction of roads and civil works are being asked to visit the site shortly and take up construction soon after the present monsoon is over.

It is estimated that about 3.5 lakh tonnes of wire rod will be needed for the fence for which the total outlay will be around Rs. 180 crores. The acquisition of land and the construction of the border road are likely to involve an expenditure of Rs. 320 crores, taking the total cost to Rs. 500 crores. There would be a recurring expenditure as well on the maintenance of the fence and the road.

Apart from intensifying vigilance on the border it has been found necessary to keep an eye on possible infiltrators deeper inside Indian territory. For this purpose the Prevention of Infiltration from Pakistan (PIP) scheme introduced in the early 1960s is being revamped. The strength of the units deployed for the purpose is being raised from three to four with the addition of a head constable.

Close Watch

On the border itself, the outposts are being provided with motor cycles and in some cases with jeeps to increase their mobility. The only vehicle they now usually have is a bicycle. No wonder by the time a border guard gets to know of an infiltrator he would have managed to disappear into the interior.

The average distance between two security outposts in the Assam sector of the border has been reduced to 3.4 km from the earlier 5.6 km and the total number of outposts raised to about 75 on the 270 km stretch. This facilitates a close watch. In the other sectors, however, border outposts continue to be less closely located.

Efforts are also under way to find out if in addition to the fence and other obstacles, it is possible to install electronic devices to prevent unauthorised persons from crossing the border. The Government has asked an electronics equipment manufacturer to look into the details.

There is a feeling however that at most places the topography of the Indo-Bangladesh border is such that no amount of vigilance is likely to be fool-proof. The only effective remedy is the emergence of conditions in Bangladesh which will discourage the people there from leaving their land.

Obstacles to Permanent Structure

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Sep 83 p 17

[Article by M. S. Prabhakara]

[Text] The demand that the Indo-Bangladesh border should be "sealed" to prevent further influx of "aliens" has been one of the strident demands of the Assam agitators. In the popular mind, the sealing of so porous a border as that between India and Bangladesh has not been done so far only because the Government of India, in other words, the Congress Government, has a "vested interest" in keeping the border open, for only by doing so could it [word indistinct] and strengthen its "vote banks" in the State.

Apart from the sheer impracticability of the proposal to erect a physical barrier all along the Indo-Bangladesh border, or even along the Assam-Bangladesh border, there is a curious reluctance to accept the Government's assurances, reiterated in Parliament, that a physical barrier in the shape of barbed wire fencing is to be erected all along the border. Apart from the announcements in Parliament and from public platforms, the issue is yet to be gone into in detail and not even a beginning has been made to implement the decision.

Proposal Not New

The proposal to erect a physical barrier along the border is not new; the idea was indeed mooted when the agitation was in an incipient stage. During

one of the earlier rounds of talks the agitation leaders raised the demand that a fortification or a boundary wall all along the border should be erected. The Government, as usual, accepted the demand "in principle," but did little more. It was only after the elections and the accompanying and consequent violence that the Government applied its mind again to the problem and sent a special team headed by a Secretary in the Home Ministry to Assam to study the border situation and make recommendations for strengthening border security. The report submitted by the team considered in detail the feasibility of erecting a physical barrier and the announcement that a permanent structure would be raised followed in due course in dribbles and in the usually confused and contradictory manner.

The Chief Minister, Mr. Hiteswar Saikia, initially announced that a wall along the State's border with Bangladesh would be erected. The proposal was later modified into one of erection of a barbed wire fence.

Of course, even the most formidable fortification, assuming that it is feasible, along the State's border with Bangladesh would hardly be able to prevent the influx of aliens as, apart from Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram share a common border with Bangladesh.

The agitation leaders as well as public opinion at large are now disappointed that while a boundary wall had been promised, Assam is now being sought to be fobbed off with a "mere barbed wire fence" along the border. However, amidst all the expectations, little attention seems to have been paid to the international repercussions let alone in Bangladesh, if any kind of a permanent barrier were to be constructed or even if work in this connection is started. The Bangladesh authorities have clearly expressed their opposition to the proposal and Lt. Gen. Ershad, Chief Martial Law Administrator, has denounced the proposal and its implications "as casting a monstrous slur on his country." Leaving aside this aspect of the question, the sheer logistics of the proposed structure are formidable.

Seven Segments:

Apart from the long stretch of the Indo-Bangladesh border abutting West Bengal and North Bengal and touching all the districts of West Bengal barring Hooghly, Howrah, Bankura, Purulia, Birbhum, Burdwan and Midnapur, the border in the north-east can be divided clearly into seven segments: the Assam-Bangladesh border in the east touching the districts of Dhubri and Goalpara (about 145 km); the Meghalaya-Bangladesh border in the west (about 25 km); the Meghalaya-Bangladesh border in the south (about 325 km); the Assam-Bangladesh border in Cachar (about 115 km); the Tripura-Bangladesh border in the west (about 375 km); in the south and the south-east (about 325 km); and the Mizoram-Bangladesh border (245 km).

The Assam-Bangladesh border in the West is in some respects the most difficult for construction of any physical barrier. It is also, in the popular mind, the one through which major infiltration takes place. This stretch falls into three sub-segments. The border begins at a point about 40 km north of the Brahmaputra where the river Sankosh and its tributaries enter

Assam. The Sankosh according to knowledgeable geographers, has a tendency to change course both eastwards and westwards in its passage south to join the Brahmaputra, creating, in the process shifting channels and thus rendering any permanent construction or laying a definite boundary along which a permanent construction can be done extremely difficult.

The second sub-segment runs almost diagonally across the Brahmaputra, beginning at a point about 15 km south-west of Dhubri and running for about 50 km right across the Brahmaputra. This part of the river is "braiding" and has a number of riverine islands, some of which shift as the numerous channels of the Brahmaputra change their course. None has suggested that any construction is possible on this stretch of the border.

Further south, the border runs for another 35 km or so, from Mankachar to the Assam-Bangladesh-Garo Hills trijunction, mostly along the river Jinjiram and the branches of the Brahmaputra. This is again a low-level area, prone to floods, and any kind of permanent construction would be extremely difficult there.

The same problem would arise in the 30 km stretch of the Assam-Bangladesh border in Cachar district, demarcated by the two branches of the river Brak, the Kishiara and the Surma. In the remaining stretch of this border towards the south up to the Assam-Bangladesh-Tripura trijunction which is relatively flat ground some permanent construction may be possible. The Meghalaya-Bangladesh border except for short stretches consists of foothills posing serious problems for any plan to erect permanent structures. The problems would be even more on the Mizoram-Bangladesh border. It is only along the Tripura-Bangladesh border where, for the most part except in the east and the southern side, a permanent construction may be feasible.

And yet, knowing fully well the political and technological problems involved in the whole enterprise, the Government has now apparently decided to go ahead with the proposal. A special officer of the rank of a Commissioner is to be posted in Assam, presumably with his headquarters at Guwahati though this has only been reported in the press. The task would involve, apart from the Central Government, the Government of the adjoining States, various Ministries and Departments like Defence, External Affairs and Works and Housing. There are also bound to be formidable problems involving acquisition of land as well, for at points the area is settled almost up to the international border.

No Clear Idea of Project

However, barring the announcement and reiteration of the proposal in Parliament and sundry public references to it, little is known of what shape the barrier is going to take. There are no indications of the height, mean width and depth of the proposed structure and the vertical and horizontal density of the strands of barbed wire, not to speak of the innumerable operational details involved. Even less is known of what is going to be done about the long stretches of riverine or marshy areas where no construction, permanent or otherwise, is possible.

There is vague talk of strengthening the existing riverine police as well as equipping the BSF with more speed boats for patrolling. It is even possible that the final fortification, if it ever comes up, may combine all the features to satisfy all-barbed wire fence, electronic surveillance (a team from the Electronics Commission surveyed the border in July) with towers and floodlights, more intensive patrolling of the riverine areas as well as a few border roads.

However formidable the obstacles are, there is bound to be brisk construction activities or at least the appearance of such activities along parts of the border. A lot of money is waiting to be spent. The whole undertaking is expected to be completed in two years from the date the erection work begins.

CSO: 4600/1053

MEETING OF CABINET POLITICAL AFFAIRS PANEL REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Sep 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 16.

The Political Affairs Committee of the Cabinet met today, without any officials present, for a periodic review of the national scene, as part of the new series of such high level consultations the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi has initiated.

The first PAC meeting in this series was held last month and the confabulations today were the second. Though what exactly is said by different ministers at these closed door meetings of the PAC is kept a secret, enough is known of the general context in which these discussions are held to give an opportunity to them to voice their views privately without much inhibition. At the regular Cabinet meetings that are attended by many officials it is difficult for an individual minister to disagree with the Prime Minister on any important issue, because of the feeling that almost all subjects of consequence that are brought up for consideration have her prior approval at least in principle.

But Mrs. Gandhi has introduced this new practice of private consultations to induce her senior colleagues to talk a little more freely and have the benefit of their collective opinion.

These exchanges take place within the limits of self-imposed restraint, since no minister would try to raise an issue which she does not want to discuss with them.

Talk about snap poll: There are references at these ministerial conclaves, according to informed sources, to the attempts of opposition parties to keep talking of a possible snap poll to create a sense of urgency among their own followers for engaging in makeshift electoral alliances. But none of the ministers would try to start a substantive discussion on the relative advantages and disadvantages of early elections.

Similarly, even the seniormost ministers who go through some anxious moments when there is talk of an impending Cabinet reshuffle

do not feel bold enough to ask Mrs. Gandhi whether she is, indeed, contemplating it. So they tend to confine the articulation of their views to problems of proximate concern to the Government without risking her displeasure by raising issues of political importance which she prefers to deal herself without unsolicited advice from her colleagues.

These in-built constraints on collective responsibility have reduced Cabinet discussions to one of unquestioning compliance with the wishes of the leader with no place at all for any dissent because it is often mistaken for defiance. There are occasions when the Prime Minister and her colleagues talk quite freely about the developments in the States, especially those with non-Congress (!) Governments, but there is no question of anybody asking her why one set of standards are applied for getting rid of an inconvenient, corrupt or troublesome Chief Minister in one State, while different standards are adopted elsewhere for shielding others who are no less guilty.

The PAC has been discussing for months together what should be done to resolve the Assam tangle or settle the Akali problem, but it scrupulously avoids controversial and sensitive issues like non-resident investments, the questionable methods being adopted for raising party funds, the disinclination of the leadership to take steps to curb corruption, the misuse of patronage to let the favoured few derive undue benefits from major transactions, and the increasing tendency to indulge in double talk to the point of undermining the credibility of the Government.

Commendable idea: Otherwise the idea of these informal exchanges at the highest level for sharing ideas and pooling thought is certainly a commendable innovation. But in an

elective democracy, it is not possible to introduce inner party democracy at the top and let it percolate to the bottom. It has to start at the grass-roots level and work its way up to make the leadership at the top responsive and responsible to the feelings of those down the line.

The senior ministers who have taken part in these informal exchanges have no idea at all of how this colloquy is going to shape and what purpose it might serve in the present circumstances. But they have responded enthusiastically to the idea of utilising the opportunity to advise the Prime Minister within permissible limits and applaud her instinctive responses, even if they do not feel reassured enough to raise more fundamental issues of policy and performance during these discussions.

These senior ministers who are also key personalities in the party hierarchy are even more inhibited in offering any advice, not to speak of asking any awkward questions about the handling of Congress (D) affairs in the States. They privately resent the re-emergence of the caucus-style of party management, but dare not object to the decisions that are taken often without any advance consultation.

CSO: 4600/1044

ANALYST REPORTS ON VISIT OF MAURITIAN OFFICIAL

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Sep 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 15.

The new Government in the strategic Indian Ocean island of Mauritius is seeking massive aid from friendly countries like India to put its badly run down economy back into shape before the leftist opposition led by Mr. Paul Berenger launches a tirade against its alleged incapacity to cope with this difficult situation.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Aneeroodh Jugnauth and his colleagues do not want to depend unduly on the World Bank and IMF to bail Mauritius out of its present plight, since the stringent conditions imposed by these international financial agencies are generally unpopular with the people.

Elimination of unemployment: The visiting Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Gaetan Duval, who met the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, yesterday to apprise them of the post-election situation, said today that the elimination of unemployment was a major task for the new Government, which in his view was more important than any international issue, including the recovery of the Diego Garcia island from Britain and the U.S.

There were 60,000 unemployed youth in this island of less than one million people and the Government was desperately trying to find jobs for at least a third of them in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States.

As the leader of the Creoles, Sir Gaetan has been accused by his political opponents of being anti-Indian in the past. So he has come to India where he has many friends to clear up this misunderstanding and assure all concerned of his goodwill for both India and the people of Indian origin in Mauritius who are in a majority

and also in power there.

The Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM) led by Mr. Berenger has also been spreading the canard that the ruling alliance of Mr. Jugnauth's Mauritian Socialist Party and Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam's Labour Party was anti-Muslim and anti-Christian because of its Hindu parochialism. So Sir Gaetan has tried to dispel this impression and project the policies of the new Government in their proper perspective by spelling out its priorities for getting the island's economy back into stride.

Dependence on S.Africa: In an informal chat today, this highly articulate and sophisticated politician spoke of the heavy dependence of Mauritius on South Africa for consumer goods and how the island could not snap these links until countries like Australia and India accepted the responsibility to meet its basic requirements. He said much as India wanted to meet the needs of Mauritius, the heavy freight rates were a major deterrent to the growth of any meaningful trade.

But India could help Mauritius, in his view, in many other ways by cooperating in its industrial development, establishing joint ventures, providing technical assistance, offering credits and supplying capital equipment at competitive rates. It was in this context that he invited Indian entrepreneurs to play an active role in the island's development.

Increased assistance: At the next ministerial meeting of the Indo-Mauritian joint commission, an effort will be made to give concrete shape to the many ideas that are currently under consideration for increased Indian participation by identifying specific areas for such cooperation. He was grateful for the help that India had given in the past and hoped that it would step up its assistance.

CSO: 4600/1043

REPORT ON SPEECH BY DELEGATE TO MONTREAL ICAO MEET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

MONTREAL, Canada, Sept 16 (PTI)—India has called for a "full investigation" into the facts of the incident in which a Korean commercial airliner was shot down by a Soviet jet fighter on 31 August resulting in the death of all 269 people on board.

Speaking at an extraordinary session of the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) council yesterday, the Indian representative at the council, K R Ganesan suggested that such investigation should be done under established ICAO procedure.

He said that until all facts were available judgment must necessarily be suspended. Marshalling of all evidence was indispensable in order to prevent any recurrence of such incident.

Mr Ganesan posed several questions concerning the incident and said his delegation was not in a position to answer them. "Yet, not until these questions are answered can we know what

exactly happened and proceed to ensure that it never happens again".

At the outset, Mr Ganesan expressed the Government of India's 'shock' at the 'appalling tragedy' and read out the statement made last week by the official spokesman in New Delhi.

Mr Ganesan told the council: "To this end, we must in the first instance direct our attention

to what exactly happened. Those with access to information have been releasing it in instalments. The general outline is now some what clearer, but many questions remain unanswered".

"First, we note that the aircraft was fitted out with just about the best available navigational systems and communications equipment. How then did the plane stray so far and for so long and having so strayed, how could the crew not have known they were off course and going over an area bristling with sen-

sitive military installations. An area which is unambiguously marked 'dangerous and prohibited' on all aero-navigational maps.

"Was it mechanical failure? indeed, is it all possible with three separate inertial navigational systems? or, was it a human error and if so, was it accidental mistake or culpable negligence or something worse?

There is a second set of questions that arises over what happened once the aircraft entered Soviet airspace. What, in sequential detail, were the measures which the Soviet air defence took to warn the intruding aircraft, intercept it and bring it down to land? What is the evidence of those measures having been taken?

"Once these facts are established, we would need to find

credible explanations for the crew having neither responded to Soviet signals, nor having ever informed the ground control of the problem they were facing, especially since Clause 14 of the Soviet Union's Aeronautical information publication, mandatory under the Chicago Convention states clearly in regard to foreign aircraft intercepted in 'dangerous and prohibited areas' and in case the intercepted foreign aircraft does not obey commands given by the interceptor the safety of the intercepted aircraft will not be guaranteed". There is also the confusion about navigational lights of the plane.

The third set of questions pertains to identification. Could radar blip have caused confusion about whether it was a reconnaissance plane or a civilian aircraft? Could there have been reasonable possibility of a military aircraft following in the radar shadow of a civilian plane? what was the extent and nature of such visible sighting, as was possible, in the conditions prevailing at the time?

On the circumstances in which visible sighting was made, was there scope for any reasonable doubt about the type of aircraft? Could civilian airliners be used for military reconnaissance? have they been so used? could Soviet authorities not know that this was a scheduled commercial flight with hundreds of civilian passengers aboard? were they so informed and if not who is responsible for failure to do so?

UN REPRESENTATIVE ADDRESSES NONALIGNED EXPERTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

NEW YORK, Sept 16 (PTI)—India has drawn attention to the special problems facing small island developing nations and urged the need for devising concrete strategies to secure effective action by the international community to assist and support these countries' efforts at development and self-reliance.

Mr Vinay Verma, India's deputy permanent representative at the UN told a non-aligned meeting of experts of small island developing countries in Grenada on Wednesday that the impact of world economic crisis had been aggravated by critical constraints imposed by the smallness of area, low natural resources endowment, geophysical isolation and other factors which inherently reduced the possibilities of economic expansion and development.

Mr Verma, who is attending the three-day meeting as personal representative of External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao pointed out that the recent non-aligned summit had called for the elaboration of 'definitive proposals to alleviate the desperate economic plight of small island developing countries and the setting up of emergency relief fund'. Mr Verma said it would be timely for the experts meeting to focus on such measure.

Mr Verma said assistance of the international community to small island developing countries could be particularly beneficial in the areas of marine technology, fishing, agriculture, tourism and in the creation of general infrastructure facilities such as transportation.

He said among developing countries per se, there was a great deal of scope for exchanges in various sectors of economic activity. In the spirit of collective self-reliance

which was a cornerstone of the philosophy of the nonaligned movement.

Ways and means should be examined for greater interaction among developing countries in areas of special interest to the small island developing countries, he said.

CSO: 4600/1045

DEFENSE MINISTRY ADVISER TALKS ON WEAPONS STUDY

Lean Toward Indigenous Systems

Bombay THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 17 Sep 83 p 9

[Text] Bangalore, September 16--India is slowly turning to designing and developing major weapons systems instead of depending on advanced countries, according to the scientific adviser to the ministry of defence, Dr. V. S. Arunachalam.

Inaugurating the office building of the Centre for Aeronautical Systems Studies and Analysis (CASSA) here today, Dr. Arunachalam said that making performance assessments of various weapons and evaluating their cost-effectiveness were a primary defence need.

A perception of threat and development of technology were prerequisites of defence. It is in this context that CASSA gains importance. Similar institutions existed in the United States (Rand Corporation) and the Soviet Union. Computer analysis of weapons and complete mathematical modelling were all tuned to the use of minimum force for maximum defence, he said.

Dr. Arunachalam pointed out that CASSA was ideally located, as Bangalore had come to be known as the "aeronautical capital" of the country and the centre could interact with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and other organisations in the city.

New Aircraft

Dr. R. K. Wadhwa, director of CASSA, said in his welcome address that the centre had evolved from the Systems Analysis Group formed in 1972. It was renamed aeronautical systems analysis group and changed to CASSA in 1974.

Dr. Wadhwa said the centre was created for studies relating to weapons systems using quantitative techniques, leading to better decision-making.

Later, Dr. Arunachalam told newsmen that a welcome development in the country was that scientists and engineers were talking to each other. This interaction would be exemplified in the development of the light combat aircraft (LCA). The project, which was estimated to cost Rs. 600 crores, was approved by the government a month ago.

The scientific adviser said although the country would initially import some items for the LCA, it would later be indigenised. He pointed out that only the U.S., the U.K., France, the Soviet Union and West Germany made aero-engines. "We are also entering the aero-engines club," he said.

More Details Given

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Sep 83 p 6

[Text] Bangalore, Sept 16 (PTI)--India is on the threshold of building up its own weapon systems through a network of its research and development laboratories instead of importing them, Dr V. S. Arunachalam, scientific adviser to the Defence Minister, said here today.

The country now had the manpower and infrastructure to manufacture its defence needs, he said, inaugurating a Rs 18 lakh office building of the Centre for Aeronautical Systems Studies and Analysis (CASSA) here. The country's capability of designing and developing major weapon system has often "overlooked," he added.

Dr Arunachalam said test trial of the country's first indigenously produced main battle tank (MBT) will be held in January next year.

He told newsmen it would take another four years to start regular production of this highly sophisticated tank.

Dr Arunachalam said the Government had sanctioned a Rs 600 crore Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project. It was a major project and the Hindustan Aeronautics would build its prototype.

Dr Arunachalam said the 'Ajeet' fighter aircraft project was not shelved. Though the original German version of 'Ajeet' had the dubious distinction of being called a 'widow maker,' he said, the Germans continued to improve upon it.

He said India would soon join the 'jet club' of six countries--France, USA, USSR, Britain, Germany, and Italy--by producing a 'good' 'jet engine' indigenously.

Our Special Correspondent adds:

Dr Arunachalam strongly attacked the tendency to import technology even in spheres where the country was capable of standing on its own.

Coming down heavily on the tendency of gross underestimation of Indian capabilities and falling prey to cheap offers from abroad, Dr Arunachalam said "they are selling cheap and destroy you."

Citing personal experience, he disclosed that a foreign source had refused to supply some very important material but when our country produced it,

foreigners started queuing up to sell the same material but at a rate far cheaper than the original price.

Pointing out that such technology transfer will very seriously jeopardise our independent development, Mr Arunachalam said: "What we need is a Gandhian approach, a khadi approach, since our problems and our solutions are uniquely ours."

CSO: 4600/1045

INDIA

BAIL GRANTED SUSPECT IN GANDHI ASSASSINATION PLOT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Sep 83 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, September 16--The supreme court today turned down a CBI petition seeking the cancellation of anticipatory bail granted by the Delhi high court to Prem Shankar Poddar who was wanted in a case of alleged conspiracy to kill the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

A division bench of the court comprising Mr. Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy and Mr. Justice A. Varadarajan thus confirmed the grant of anticipatory bail to Poddar by the high court.

The Delhi police had on September 20, 1981, registered a case of criminal conspiracy to kill Mrs. Gandhi under sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act and section 5 of the Explosives Act. Two persons, K. P. Singh and Ganesh Dutt Singh, were arrested on September 21 and later remanded to police custody till September 28.

K. P. Singh had told the police that Poddar was the brain behind the conspiracy to assassinate Mrs. Gandhi. While the two arrested suspects were on September 28 granted bail by the metropolitan magistrate, Poddar obtained anticipatory bail from the high court on December 18, 1981.

Meanwhile, the case was transferred on September 30 to the CBI for further investigation. On January 2, 1982, Poddar was arrested and detained under the National Security Act. The CBI moved the supreme court in February 1982 for special leave to appeal which was refused today.

CSO: 4600/1045

BRIEFS

INVITATION TO PORTUGAL--Lisbon, Sept. 14 (Reuter)--Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has accepted an invitation to visit Portugal, a Government spokesman said yesterday. She will be the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the country. The invitation was made in a letter sent in July by Portugal's Socialist Premier Mario Soares, who during a visit to New Delhi in December 1947 signed a treaty ending a long dispute between the two countries over Goa, Daman and Diu. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Sep 83 p 1]

WHEAT FROM ARGENTINA--New Delhi, September 16 (UNI)--Contracts had been concluded for the import of 650,000 tonnes of wheat from Argentina, an official spokesman announced here today. This is in addition to the import of 980,000 tonnes of wheat from the United States and 50,000 tonnes from Canada, for which contracts were concluded recently. Today's announcement takes the total quantity of wheat to be imported in 1983-84 to 2.13 million tonnes. The total cost of wheat contracted so far was \$322.81 million, the spokesman said. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Sep 83 p 9]

TRADE WITH ROMANIA--New Delhi, September 16--India and Romania have agreed to increase their bilateral trade and economic co-operation, according to Mr. Trandafir Cocirla, Romania's energy minister. Mr. Cocirla today called on the Union commerce minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh. Trade between India and Romania has almost doubled since 1980--from Rs. 150 crores to Rs. 271 crores in 1982. Mr. V. P. Singh said that new areas of growth would be identified. There was good scope for collaboration between the two countries in petrochemicals, power, engineering and railways sector. Mr. Cocirla offered Romanian expertise in engineering as well as equipment in exchange for Indian iron ore. Mr. Singh said that the joint commission which was likely to meet towards the end of this year would take up suggestions for improving bilateral trade further. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Sep 83 p 9]

RUSSIAN COALFIELD ASSISTANCE--Moscow, September 16 (UNI)--The Soviet Union will provide technical and material assistance to set up a number of coal fields in India in the next few years. This is envisaged in a new protocol on coal signed by coal secretary Mr. S. Lal and first Soviet deputy coal mining minister Mr. V. Beli. The Indo-Soviet working group, which met in Moscow from September 7 to 16 concluded its deliberations today. The Indian delegation is leaving for Delhi tonight. The Soviet Union will prepare the

master plan for the new Godavati coal field project for which the two sides have finalised arrangements. The Soviet side has also agreed to help set up the Chinakuri coal field for which a detailed project report is to be submitted by it. The Soviets will also help establish a new institute for coal mining, construction and designing in India, based on the pattern of a similar institute located in the Soviet town of Donetsk. The Soviet Union has also agreed to provide technology to India for single directional blasting of over-burden for the Jhingura open cast mines in Singarauli. The new method will enable India to further exploit the coal reserves in the area. At present, USSR is the only country which utilises the method on a large scale. The Soviet system of shield mining is to be used in Tipong coal mining area in Assam, characterised by very difficult mining conditions. A vertical fast sinking shaft will be set up in Jhanjhra in West Bengal. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Sep 83 p 10]

NEW GOA PARTY--Panaji, September 17--Eight Goa MLAs, who have resigned from the Congress (I) have formed a new party called Goa Congress. Announcing this at a press conference here today, the convener of the new party, Mr. Vishnu Anant Naik, said that the speaker of the assembly, Mr. Froilano Machado, had recognised the Goa Congress and agreed to allot its members separate seats in the house. The former PWD minister, Dr. Wilfred de Souza, would be the leader of the new party in the legislature. Mr. Naik said the primary objectives of the new party would be to promote secularism and work for social justice. Dr. de Souza, who was present, charged the chief minister, Mr. Pratapsingh Rane, and the PCC (I) president, Mrs. Sulochana Katkar, with "full responsibility for the disintegration of the Congress (I) in Goa." He cited three reasons for this: the chief minister's "total ineffectiveness"; his (Mr. Rane's) "having to run to Delhi for all and sundry decisions"; and the failure on the part of the chief minister and the PCC (I) chief to work for Goa's statehood and development of the Konkani language. Also present were Mr. H. Durado, MLA, and former general secretary of the PCC (I), Mr. Govind Kanwilkar. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Sep 83 p 1]

TELUGU DESAM RECOGNIZED--New Delhi, September 17 (PTI)--Telugu Desam has been recognised by the Election Commission as a state political party. The recognition follows the landslide victory of Mr. N. T. Rama Rao's party in the Andhra Pradesh state assembly elections in January this year. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Sep 83 p 9]

TANZANIAN MINISTER'S VISIT--Bombay, September 16--The defence minister of Tanzania, Brig. N. M. Kimarid, accompanied by a high-level delegation, visited the Coast Guard ship, 'Kirpan,' here yesterday. He was received by Commodore Amrik Singh, DIG, Coast Guard Region (West), and Commander Rattan Zutshi, commanding officer, on board the ship. The visiting dignitary was briefed about the functions of the Indian Coast Guard and its achievements. He was shown the model of the Coast Guard ship, 'Vikram,' under construction at Mazagon Dock. He was presented the ship's crest by the commanding officer. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Sep 83 p 5]

ANTARCTICA CONSULTATIVE STATUS--Canberra, September 12 (UNI-DPA)--India was today conferred consultative membership of the Antarctica treaty. Also conferred consultative membership was Brazil, bringing the total membership to 16. They will join the other consultative members at the treaty organisation's 12th meeting which opens in the Australian capital tomorrow and ends on September 27. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Sep 83 p 9]

FRG TRADE TEAM--New Delhi, September 16--The visiting West German delegation led by the minister for economic cooperation, Dr. Juergen Warnke, today discussed with the Union finance minister, Mr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, bilateral economic and trade relations. The two ministers agreed that these relations should be further strengthened and new areas for joint ventures and collaboration should be identified. Mr. Mukherjee said that India had embarked on a liberal trade policy so as to provide imports of technology and capital goods to the domestic industry. However, he regretted that there had been no roll back of protectionism, which denied India access to the markets of developed countries. The two ministers also discussed multilateral issues including the allocation of SDRs, access to IMF resources and the conference on money and finance. Mr. Mukherjee stressed the need for concessional aid to developing countries and for further SDR allocations and substantial increase in IDA-VII to ensure they got at least the existing level of funds in real terms. He said that the entry of new borrowers (like China) should not be at the cost of reducing India's share. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Sep 83 p 1]

NEW ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION--Calcutta, Sept. 15--A third Indian expedition to Antarctica has been planned by the Union Government during 1983-84, according to Mr. P. K. Basu, Secretary, Union Ministry of Mines. It was expected that the geo-scientists of the Geological Survey of India would again be called upon to join this venture, Mr. Basu told the 18th meeting of the Central Geological Programming Board here today. In the two Indian multidisciplinary expeditions to Antarctica in 1981-82 and 1982-83, the GSI had played a leading role. Mapping: Systematic mapping of the whole country would be completed by the GSI by 1990, Mr. Basu said. Fiftyseven per cent of the country was covered up to June this year, he added. A team of GSI officers, specialised in geology, geophysics and instrumentation, was now on its way to a few foreign countries for the selection of an aircraft for carrying out airborne mineral surveys and explorations. This aircraft would be fitted with sophisticated geophysical instruments, and would be used in carrying out aeromagnetic surveys and locating anomalies. The GSI would soon be acquiring two more coastal research vessels in 1984 to discharge their responsibilities in marine geology. Regarding the GSI's involvement abroad, Mr. Basu said the organisation was rendering assistance to some countries in south east Asia in mineral exploration. GSI teams had already visited Vietnam and a course of action for carrying out further surveys for minerals there was being worked out.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Sep 83 p 16]

NEW CANADIAN ENVOY--Ottawa, Sept. 10--The External Affairs Department has announced the appointment of Mr William Warden (49) as the new Canadian High Commissioner to India, reports AP. Mr William has been Ambassador to Pakistan since 1981. The Department, which released a list of senior diplomatic appointments yesterday, named Mr Charles J. Marshall (54) as the new Ambassador to Pakistan. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 11 Sep 83 p 5]

DELEGATION IN DPRK--Pyongyang, Sept 9 (UNI)--An Indian Youth Congress-I delegation, led by Mr Chandan Kumar Bagchi, yesterday held discussions with vice chairman of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea Kim Chang Ryong, here on promoting cooperation between the two organisations. Mr Bagchi told UNI that the North Korean Youth League was keen on exchange of visits by youth delegations and favoured that contact should be built between Mr Rajiv Gandhi, MP AICC-I General Secretary and Mr Kim Jong Il, who has been successor to President Kim Il Sung of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The League has invited Mr Rajiv Gandhi to visit North Korea. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Sep 83 p 8]

INDO-EGYPT PANEL--The Government has approved the setting up of an Indo-Egyptian Joint Commission for Economic, Trade, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation, reports PTI. The Commission will be another step in consolidating India's relations with Egypt in the political, economic, scientific and cultural fields. A decision in this regard was taken at the Union Cabinet meeting held in Delhi on Saturday. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Sep 83 p 7]

DPRK INVITES RAJIV--New Delhi, Sept. 18--The Congress(I) general secretary, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, M.P., has been invited to visit North Korea by the League of the Socialist Working Youth of the country, reports UNI. This was stated here by Mr Chandan Bagchi, Congress(I) M.P., who yesterday returned from a visit of North Korea and the Soviet Union at the head of a Youth Congress(I) delegation. Mr Bagchi said the League chairman told him that the youth of his country were keenly awaiting Mr Gandhi's visit. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Sep 83 p 13]

CSO: 4600/1042

IRAN

MOJAHEDIN-E KHALQ PUBLISHES LIST OF MEMBERS 'EXECUTED SECRETLY'

Paris LE MATIN in French 9 Sep 83 p 15

[Text] For the first time since the great wave of repression which followed the removal of Iranian President Bani-Sadr on 20 June 1981, the people's Mojahedin organization has just published detailed identities of 3,671 militants executed secretly by the regime for political reasons. The names are part of a list of 7,746 executed persons (officially, the government has not even admitted to half of these executions), including names, age, profession, date and the circumstances of death. The list was made for the entire country and, according to the Mojahedins, some of the first investigators were in turn arrested and executed.

Thirteen percent of the people on the list were women, several of whom were pregnant, and two thirds were grade school, high school and university students. Ninety percent of the people belonged to or favored the Mojahedins. They were executed in great numbers (81 percent), and some were killed in the middle of the street (15 percent). Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the national resistance council--which is backed by the Mujahedins--sent this list to Amnesty International and to the Red Cross and has requested that the United Nations send a representative to Iran to investigate the nearly 8,000 executions which have been kept secret so far.

12215

CSO: 4619/97

BEHIND-THE-SCENES POWER STRUGGLE ELABORATED

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 131, 8 Sep 83 pp 1, 2

[London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

[Text] A bill which will allow ministries to function in the Islamic republic without a minister actually being at the helm seemed to have allowed prime minister Mussavi to survive the rejection by the Majlis of some of the young "Islamic" technocrats he nominated for ministerial posts a couple of weeks ago.

Although the revolutionary credentials of the nominees seemed satisfactory three of Mussavi's nominees to replace the resigned ministers of commerce, labour, industry and mines, housing and development and of agriculture, were rejected by the Majlis.

This prompted a comment from one Tehran situation watcher that "they are so much against technocrats that they won't even approve their own." Observers were trying to see significance in the fact that president Khamenei was said to have chosen all three of the rejected men. Some interests represented in the Majlis, it was felt, were influenced by this fact.

When Mussavi had announced he had discussed details of his cabinet changes with Ayatollah Khomeini it was widely assumed he had the old man's blessing for his nominees. At the Majlis he introduced five new faces--Hossain Abedi Jaafari as minister of commerce, Abolqassem Sarhadizadeh for labour, Hossain Nadji for industry and mines, Issa Kalantari for agriculture and Sarraj Kazerooni for housing.

The resignations of Asghar Owladi, the previous commerce minister, and of labour minister Ahmad Tavakoli had already been announced. But premier Mussavi did not say whether the other three ministers being replaced had resigned or had been sacked. It was known that the outgoing agriculture minister Salamati had been under attack for his failure to carry out the radicals' plan for land distribution and housing minister Gonabadi had been criticised for his reputed close cooperation with the Soviets over completion of existing housing estates. But there had been no hint Hashemi was earmarked for an ouster as minister of industry.

Mussavi told the Majlis the trio nominated for their posts were all well-educated individuals who were capable of drawing up plans and carrying out projects. He said that president Khamenei had personally scrutinised their credentials and favoured their choice. Observers confirmed this latter fact.

The Majlis went into recess and later Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani accepted a motion by the deputies that the session be closed to the public and the media, a most unusual procedure for a scheduled open session. Voting took place when the doors were reopened to the public, the members being called upon to vote for each individual nominee, a curious practice which has now become standard in the Islamic republic.

All the five nominees were in their mid-30s, university graduates and with experience in various revolutionary organs such as Baseej, committees or guards. Only Sarhadizadeh appeared to have served a prison term under the previous regime. Not even political observers had heard of the five before. But this is not unusual since both Khamenei and Mussavi themselves were obscure, insignificant figures before their appointments to public office.

Some observers say the Majlis has always been sensitive over having a say in the choice of members of the cabinet. They recall the occasion when Khamenei's choice of present foreign minister Ali Akbar Velayati for the premier's post was rejected by the deputies.

The rejection also brought to mind the fact that the Majlis had humiliated former president Bani-Sadr by rejecting his nominees for the premiership and other posts. Bani-Sadr had first tried to court Khomeini's favour by nominating his son Ahmad Khomeini for the post of premier. But Khomeini blocked the move by saying he did not want any of his family occupying government posts. He was ignoring the fact that his nephews were already holding important positions. Even today, one of his nephews, Mohammad Hindi, is first deputy premier and liaison officer between the cabinet and the central office of Friday prayer leaders in Qom.

When Bani-Sadr tried to nominate another person to the premier's job the deputies overruled him and appointed the assassinated Rajai to the post. Even Bani-Sadr's nominee for finance and economics, a portfolio he had held himself before his presidency, was turned down.

At that time some optimistic observers dismissed the affair as insignificant. But later it became obvious that very deep divisions existed between Bani-Sadr and the ruling mullahs headed by Mohammad Beheshti. And now observers maintain that similar divisions exist between Khamenei and other mullahs. There is some speculation that two influential mullahs in Qom ayatollahs Meshkini and Janati are opposed to Khamenei's intention to be more than a figurehead as president.

Observers also point to the fact that Khamenei should have consulted the Majlis before deciding on his choices. The question of the reshuffle could have been resolved behind the scenes instead of so publicly, they say.

The media in Tehran has recently carried feature articles recounting the government's claimed economic achievements in the past year, including, according to Tehran radio, some very high growth rates in industry and agriculture. If this is so, observers ask, why have the ministers responsible for this progress been quietly dismissed from the cabinet?

CSO: 4600/32

KHOMAYNI HAS THREATENED FUTURE OF SHI'ITE FAITH, SAYS CLERIC

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 131, 8 Sep 83 pp 2-4

[London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

[Text] A senior Iranian Shia cleric living in voluntary exile told IPS this week that he could not forgive himself nor other mullahs for failing to defend the spiritual and civic side of Islam against Khomeini's bid to give more weight to defunct and suspect jurisprudence. Khomeini's rule, he contended, had dealt a serious blow to the Shia faith in Iran and elsewhere in the Muslim world.

"I am sure the Iranian nation will survive the blows of Khomeini's rule," he said. "But I am concerned about the adverse effects of the so-called Islamic republic on the Jaafari (Shia Twelvers) faith."

In Iran the middle classes and the more responsible people among the poorer section were being deliberately harassed and humiliated by organised gangs of illiterate hooligans, he claimed. This was done in the name of enforcing Islamic rule. What Khomeini chose to ignore was the fact that people cannot be coerced into believing in a faith, they must choose to believe. Moreover, the clergy must communicate with people in a language they understand and through individuals who are qualified to do so and who can command respect.

The gangs of young armed hooligans who drove through Tehran's streets to enforce an Islamic code or Islamic behaviour were hardly good Muslims themselves.

"The pasdars known as Sar-Allah are illiterate boys and girls who take pleasure in humiliating those people who are better educated and have been more successful than they have. The rulers buy political support from these rejects of society by giving them these advantages over those better off. Such cynical political exploitation can hardly be termed Islamisation. It is dirty politics pure and simple."

So when Khomeini insisted that in Islam politics were an integral part of the religious code and practice, people automatically equated this claim with what they were experiencing in their own life--and that was this constant harassment and humiliation.

"Inevitably," the clergyman went on, "people will come to regard Islam as a primitive destructive and reactionary thing. This is not fair to our faith. Khomeini doesn't care, however, for his only objective is to establish an empire based on his own perverted ideas."

He said Islam was also under attack from other quarters. Opposition to Khomeini had also turned into opposition to Islam among some of the groups opposed to him and the Islamic republic.

"Here I am talking about the learned people who write in the exile Persian language press," he said. "They now argue that real Islam is what Khomeini is giving to people. The conclusion is obvious; they try to tell the hard-pressed Iranians that their present miseries are due to Islam. Some of them even go further and advocate a return to Zoroastrianism, which is a very dangerous proposition."

"Islam has been a dynamic religion in the sense that it kept abreast of changes and social developments for many centuries. The backwardness of the Islamic societies over the past three centuries cannot be attributed to Islam because Christian societies outside western Europe were also backward. So were other non-Muslim societies. A host of causes can be found for this situation."

In Iran and some other countries people had become aware of this backwardness and began to develop their societies, and it was unfortunate that those opposed to change could find a vehicle for opposition in the religion.

"I blame the naive and timid theologians for this," he went on, "They should have defied populist figures and come out against Khomeini right from the beginning. Politicisation of religion everywhere has produced disastrous effects. Look at Northern Ireland, Africa, Latin America, Israel and Lebanon...Khomeini's cardinal crime is the introduction of this kind of dirty politics to Iran and the Jaafari faith."

He said the main body of Shia clerics were angry at Khomeini's onslaught on the middle classes. These people were the natural habitat of Islam, he contended. Members of the middle classes had the education, understanding, financial resources and vested interest in stability to support and accept Islam. "In my experience the lower classes are superstitious but not religious. It was our hope to raise their level to that of the middle classes," he said.

"Now look what Khomeini has done. For purely political purposes he is destroying the middle classes who are the backbone of religious continuity and is misusing the lower classes by turning them into fanatical and perverted members of society without improving their standards."

The clergyman was also critical of those who in the West might regard the building of a wall of religious fanaticism around the Soviet Union to contain communism.

"Religious fanaticism, translated into political philosophy, will deliver an oppressive political machinery like those we are witnessing in Pakistan, Iran and other place" he said. "It is not worth while for anybody to defend an oppressive regime if you are not with a direct interest in it.

"Islam and any other religion survives not because a group of fanatics rise to guard it against non-believers but because of the moral, spiritual and civic messages it carries. This is the fundamental point which people like Khomeini, blinded by greed for power, forget.

"Long ago, in fact in the Hejira year of 255 (10th century A.D.), the ulema of the time decreed that Islam could survive without flogging drinkers of alcohol and stoning the adulterers but that it would not survive without its spiritual message. Now under the Islamic republic we have abandoned Islam's real spiritual message and revived flogging and stoning. That is why I am worried that Iran will be lost to Islam."

CSO: 4600/32

ARTICLE NOTES KHOMEYNI'S REFERENCE TO SHAH IN SPEECH

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 131, 8 Sep 83 p 4

[Article by unidentified correspondent: "Khomeini Counsels the 'Boy' and the 'Boy' Answers Back"--London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

[Text] In the course of a speech on Islamisation Ayatollah Khomeini for the first time referred to the young Shah directly the other day. He actually referred to him as 'pessar' (boy) and chose a mock avuncular manner in which to address him indirectly when he made the brief interpolation in his speech.

He was obviously replying to the recent statement of the young Shah following the nationwide silent demonstrations against the regime on the anniversary of Constitution Day, which under the old regime marked the day in 1906 when Iran's original constitution, revoked by the mullahs, was drawn up. Khomeini said the "boy" should not concern himself with these matters, but should get on with his studies as was right for one of his age. And he should pay attention to looking after the money his father had left him for there were some greedy old men after it.

It was a neat piece of sarcasm, inevitably interpreted by many Iranians outside as brilliantly thought out but was obviously a typical piece of extempore Iranian wit of the kind which Khomeini and many of his kind are quite capable. And the "boy" himself showed that he's no dullard, either, by making the first point in the rejoinder he put out on opposition radios the very relevant one that Khomeini had no right to advise him to study when he (Khomeini) had made it impossible for all the young Shah's compatriots inside Iran to do that. He pointed to the regime's record of closing down and failing to reopen nearly all educational institutes.

The young Shah also contended that to be a patriot was of more importance than to be a student and he went on to accuse Khomeini of committing only "aberrations" in his running of Iran. He warned Khomeini that he was "out to get him."

Iranian exiles were full of enthusiasm for the Shah's succinct, but apt riposte. Not only did Khomeini's reference to the Shah indicate that he now realised that in Iran people were now widely discussing the possible

return of the monarchy if the mullahs fall, they said, but it showed the young man himself understood that plain talking of this kind had much more appeal to Iranians than the "twaddle" about social democracy and other vague panaceas with appeal to westerners living securely in suburbia with which they have been trying to lure the Iranian masses to support them.

CSO: 4600/32

STOP SENDING CHILDREN TO WAR, UN BODY DEMANDS

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 131, 8 Sep 83 pp 4-6

[London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

[Text] The UN Commission on Human Rights has called on the Iranian government to stop sending children to the front to fight in the war against Iraq. The appeal came after a report from the sub-commission of the body on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities, which was given a report by Mrs Irandokht, representative of Anahita, an international, non-political association, giving details of her talks with Iranian children held in Iraqi prison camps.

She told the sub-commission that thousands of children had been sent to the front. They were between 13 and 18 years of age, and were sent there without any military training. Some 90 per cent were killed and the rest taken prisoner.

An observer at the sessions from Iran, Jalil Zahirnia, said that if a country was under aggression it expected its citizens to defend it. In this nobody should ask the citizens' ages for the country has a right to simply call upon them to go to the front to defend their fatherland.

Anahita urged the human rights commission to condemn the Iranian regime's flagrant use of children in the war and asks that it should be excluded from the commission if its attitude did not change. Remaining silent in this act of exterminating a generation was to be an accomplice, the organisation said.

One document produced by Mrs Irandokht at the sub-commission was put out by the "Party of God" in Isfahan, appealing to young people to join up. It was headed by a quotation from an appeal by Khomeini himself: "Now that there is more need for volunteers, the youngsters should rush to the front to replace those who are already there and are getting tired."

Then it offered young people places in the "University of Karbala, affiliated to the World Islamic Conglomerate, which accepts students." Conditions for inscription were "1-Age: not a matter of importance (from Hossain Farmideh 14 to Habib Ebne Mazaher 90); 2-Occupation: member of the party of God

(Hezbollah); 3-Qualification: "Belief in God." The prospectus continues: "Furthermore, the students of this university will graduate with a diploma in Martyrdom." It urged those wishing to register to contact 9 different headquarters of the Crusaders (Baseej) or the Deprived Crusaders (Baseej Mostazafin). These are the organisations which ship people to the front.

Mrs Irandokht told the sub-commission that the children came from the lowest socio-economic group of Iranian society, usually from villages, and most received absolutely no war training at all. They received special religious training stressing the virtue of martyrdom. Then they were sent to the war wearing shirts with the message, "We have the special permission of the Imam to go to heaven" written across the back.

Privileged ones carried a "key to heaven," a special gift from the Imam (Khomeini). This was an ordinary metal key. In some cases families received 400 tomans (about 60 dollars) in recompense for their children, or were issued with a martyrdom card providing advantages in obtaining food or jobs.

"In my conversation with one of the captured child-soldiers, I asked how he fought," Mrs Irandokht told the sub-commission. "He said, 'We came here to defend our soil by throwing ourselves in front of tanks, jumping on mines, stopping the enemy with a gun or a piece of wood. One must stop them somehow.' Note that it is the privileged ones who get the guns. The children did not want to be captured because they say Khomeini would not allow them home and they would be asked why they had not become martyrs."

"The regime in Tehran has even implied that these children may be Iraqis disguised as Iranians, thereby trying to turn public opinion against the children who have not become martyrs....This is not true, because I have talked to these children."

"They are all Iranians. Another child told me 'We have tried and tried but we could not become martyrs..we came to be killed...If we could not it is not our fault.'"

"I asked another child why he was fighting. He replied, 'I came here to defend my country and my religion.' But aren't the Iraqis also Muslim, I asked. 'The Imam said that for every Iranian killed we must kill four Iraqis.' What about the Kurds, I asked. 'The Kurds want to drink wine,' he replied."

"Little Ali was telling me, 'I am a captive. A captive is like a corpse. I am a walking corpse. I do not know if somebody in this room has a heart that beats--mine doesn't...I don't know why I am here. I have not done anything wrong. I am an orphan. I was in the Baseej programme (Baseej is an organisation to mobilise the disinherited and the poor). After I lost my parents in the war I had to go and live as a soldier'."

Mrs Irandokht told the sub-commission that it should be noted the Qoran points out frequently that orphans should be as dear and as close as children with parents and condemns their mistreatment. She quoted the relevant references in the Qoran.

She continued, "The voices of these children still ring in my head: 'I was forced to come here, mother..I had no choice'. 'Take me and leave me anywhere...in any country. I could manage'. 'When you leave here I will be beaten by the Khomeinists'. 'We don't want this war'. 'We want this war to finish'. 'We want to go home'. 'We want to see our mothers'. 'I am an orphan'. 'I have nowhere to go'. 'If I go back home they will send me to fight again'. 'I was hi-jacked into the army while I was travelling in Iran.' 'We were many...lot's of people died in front of us...We have seen a lot of blood.'

"'They forced me'. 'They raped me'. 'I am an orphan'. 'They beat me up'. 'They forced me'. 'They wanted me to jump on the mines'. 'Many were blown up in front of me'. 'They left me there, lying...waiting for us to help them.'

"'We must fight the aggressor'. 'We must fight the anti-revolutionaries'. 'We must fight imperialism'...'We must kill'. 'We must kill the enemy of Islam'."

One captive soldier told me that 100 children had originally been sent to the front for everyone that was now a prisoner. Older boys were eligible for military service so the special training for martyrdom was only being given to young boys."

Revolutionary guards directed the child soldiers onto the battlefield but usually did not stay to fight themselves. The children (and many untrained adults) were then left with no protection and no support. Mrs Irandokht said, "'All of a sudden we found ourselves with no ammunition and no food and the pasdar (revolutionary guard) was gone,' one told me helplessly."

Mrs Irandokht said the situation at the schools inside Iran was also bad. A war psychosis had taken over in the country and the propaganda glorifying war and violence was particularly aimed at children.

In the morning ceremonies at schools the national anthem had been replaced by hymns wishing long life to Khomeini and death to his enemies. Following that, a religious teacher talked about the threats to Islam and the Imam posed by counter-revolutionaries and foreign powers and the necessity to defend Islam and become a martyr.

"Pictures of martyrs decorate the walls," she explained, "and children are forced to participate in funeral processions in their districts. Hangings and executions are announced on the radio and children and parents are invited to Evin prison to watch. Mothers who have lost a son or husband in the war talk in schools about their loss and ask the children to avenge them. "The class repeats, 'We will avenge..'

"The present regime instills in Iranian children the belief that sacrifice and martyrdom for Islam are the highest objective of their lives. For these children being sent to war is a death sentence. There is no expectation that they will ever return to their families."

At the moment the child captives were merely waiting in their Iraqi prison camps. The International Red Cross had been unable to arrange their repatriation. Mrs Irandokht asked that the children should not be considered prisoners of war so that they can be given some kind of family life, education and rehabilitation programmes until the return of a normal situation. Anahita could provide teams of teachers, psychologists and parents who knew Iranian customs, religion and language who would work directly with these indoctrinated children in Iraqi camps at any time. Finally, Mrs Irandokht urged the U.N. commission to send a mission to visit the children.

CSO: 4600/32

BRIEFS

RIFT BETWEEN MILITARY LEADERS--Reliable sources inside Iran have told IPS that efforts by Ayatollah Montazeri to heal the rift between revolutionary guards commander Mohsen Rezai and the revolutionary militia minister Mohsen Rafiqdoost have not succeeded. Until now Montazeri has not been able to meet the two men at one time, a fact which reflects the seriousness of the differences between them. Montazeri is said to have been instructed by Khomeini to try to restrain Rezai from going too far in his animosity towards Rafiqdoost and Tehran-based revolutionary guards leaders, whom Rezai accuses of amassing wealth and living in comfort while he and fighting men among the guards are protecting the Islamic republic at some sacrifice. [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 131, 8 Sep 83 p 6]

EFFORTS TO ATTRACT PROFESSIONALS--Renewed efforts by the regime to attract back to Iran professional men in exile have failed to achieve anything, informants in Tehran report. A combination of fear and resentment over the behaviour of the regime towards them previously as well as the regime's horrific record in its treatment of its opponents makes those in exile dubious about returning. The fact that doctors and many others who have stayed in Tehran and, even, in some cases, making a good living, have fled clandestinely from Iran in recent months is another factor weighing against return. Inside Iran, too, the government is meeting with the same lack of success, sources say, in trying to get fired officials to return to their posts. "People are already afraid that if they work for this regime they will suffer when it inevitably falls," IPS's informant said. [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English No 131, 8 Sep 83 p 6]

CSO: 4600/32

VIOLENCE, MRD AGITATION CONDEMNED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Oct 83 p 8

[Text] Lahore, Oct. 3--The vast majority of the people have taken serious exception to the damage being done to the national interests by the violence being generated by the movement launched by the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD).

Through large numbers of letters appearing in editors columns, both in national and regional dailys have urged the government not to take a lenient view of the activities of the anti-state elements.

Most of these letters are of the opinion that the Movement had only provided an opportunity to the enemies of the country.

The activities of the supporters of the MRD, both inside and outside the country, were encouraging the enemies of Pākistan to conceive plans detrimental to the national solidarity.

The letters, sent to the editors of the newspapers from almost every nook and corner of the country have strongly condemned holding of meetings by these elements on foreign soils to propagate views against national interests. These letters have urged the like-minded and patriotic people to rise to the occasion and perform their national duty to endure peaceful conditions in their respective areas.

The letters suggest that the sort of instigation which the followers of the MRD were getting from the Akashwani (All India Radio) and the BBC clearly proved that they were playing in the hands of the enemies of Pakistan.

The letters said the current movement of the MRD had also given an opportunity to known archenemies of Pakistan to come out of their shell and to restart their work to harm the nation's integrity. The letters said that all those who had been opposed to Pakistan before its establishment, now felt strong enough to indulge in acts of high treason by openly preaching dismemberment of the country.

The letters pointed out that even during the worst form of facism and repression repeated by the PPP regime the patriotic elements and political parties had faced the situation boldly and staged protests in the country.

As such they maintained, that the intentions of these elements who were conspiring against Pakistan on foreign soils were quite clear.

The letters urged the government to deal with such elements and weed them out from the national politics so that they dare not raise their ugly head in future. In no country such elements were allowed to work so openly as they were doing in Pakistan.--APP

CSO: 4600/45

JUP SAID NOT OPTIMISTIC OVER DIALOGUE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Oct 83 p 8

[Text] Karachi, Oct. 3--The leaders of JUP were not very optimistic about the intending negotiations between their party and the government.

It has been learnt that the Karachi leaders of the party had not been very keen for negotiations but on the insistence of Abdul Sattar Niazi they agreed to a resolution offering negotiation on the condition that the election schedule and the peaceful transfer of power should be included in the agenda.

However, the leaders here were convinced that the government would not agree to the proposal. However, they think that it would at least convince Moulana Sattar Niazi that his desire for a negotiated settlement with the government would not be of much help in resolving the present crisis.

Although the invitation has been received by Moulana Niazi from the government the leaders here were suspicious of the government intentions in this connection. 'Had they been serious about it at least they would have lifted the ban on Moulana Noorani's entry' in Punjab so that he could have gone to Lahore to meet the leaders of his party there, a local leader pointed out.

The local leaders were also a bit suspicious about the move of Moulana Sattar Niazi to form an alliance with the JUI and JI.

It is said that if Moulana Noorani was not allowed to enter the Punjab by the end of this week he might ask his Secretary General to give up the efforts for bringing the government on the negotiation table and instead go ahead with its direct action programme.

CSO: 4600/45

TOURISM STATISTICS REPORTED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Oct 83 p 8

[Article by Sikander Hayat]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 4--During 1982 foreign tourist arrivals to Pakistan took an "upward trend after meeting reverses in the earlier two years," but its share of the world arrivals remained around 0.11 per cent, says an official report. About 40 per cent of the tourists came from India.

The upward trend has been attributed to the delinking of the Pak rupee from U.S. dollars slowing down of inflation rate, stabilisation of situation in Pakistan and higher number of tourists from India. During 1982 arrivals were 8.3 per cent over 290,000 in the previous year, and stood at 314,000.

The foreign exchange receipts from the tourist traffic, however, showed 46 per cent increase mainly because more tourists came from the affluent countries. Another reason for this increase is said to be the twice more conventions held during this year where the moot tourists spent on average five times more than the ordinary tourists.

The report prepared by the Economic Research and Statistics Section of the Tourism Division indicates that Pakistan received less than 15 per cent of the tourists who came to this region including Iran during this time with India bagging 42 per cent and Sri Lanka 18 per cent. Ten years back in 1972 these figures were Pakistan 9.4 per cent, India 32.1 per cent, Sri Lanka 5.2 per cent and Iran 35 per cent. Iran received only 9.2 per cent tourists now.

India continued to be the largest source of tourist traffic, followed by United Kingdom (18 per cent). While the tourists from the United States decreased by 200 from 13,700 in 1981, and Saudi Arabia by 20 per cent, the overall Middle East tourist traffic was up by 8.6 per cent.

The tourist traffic from the Soviet Union increased from 800 in 1981 to 1,900 in 1982 and the arrivals from the People's Republic of China in this period increased from 1,000 to 1,700.

Top 10 tourist generating countries for Pakistan during 1982 were India, U.K., USA, Iran, Afghanistan, Germany, Japan, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and Canada with 77 per cent of the total inflow.

Historically, tourist traffic from the affluent areas like America, Europe and East Asia in the last 10 years has steadily declined: America from 15.3 per cent to 6.4 per cent, Europe from 46.6 per cent to 28.8 per cent and East Asia from 8.7 per cent to 5.7 per cent. Consistent gains among the lucrative markets were made only in case of Middle East with its share having improved from 3.8 per cent in 1972, 7.4 per cent in 1982.

The arrivals from India, which were 7,100 in 1976, jumped to 121,500 in 1982.

Most of the arrivals were through Karachi Airport (138,500), followed by Lahore Railway Station (75,600), Wagha (56,500), Islamabad Airport (30,600) and Lahore Airport (5,900). The number of tourists entering through Peshawar Airport, Torkham, Chaman and Noukandi remained low. The sea traffic to Pakistan is insignificant with its share of 0.1 per cent since 1977.

According to this report in 1982 out of the non-Indian tourists 35 per cent came on business (against 9.4 per cent in 1976), 28.2 per cent on holiday/recreation (against 31.4 per cent in 1976) and 20.4 per cent on family visits (against 40 per cent in 1976). Of the Indian tourists 91 per cent came on family visits and 3.5 per cent on pilgrimage.

Other findings of the report are:

--Of the total 0.314 million tourists visiting Pakistan in 1982, 80 per cent were males;

--About 41.4 per cent were in the age group 21-30; 28.5 per cent in 31-40, 13.4 per cent in 41-50 and 7.1 per cent below 20 years;

--On average a tourist spent 595 dollars which was 35 per cent over 1981 average;

--During 1982, 23 per cent arrivals were professional, 17.7 per cent students, 9 per cent businessmen, 7.8 per cent housewives, 7.5 per cent craftsmen, 4.9 per cent government servants and 30 per cent others.

The tourism earnings as a percentage of GNP were 0.63 per cent and tourism was the 6th among the major foreign exchange earners.

The said report says that in view of the past growth performance and expected future developments during the Sixth Plan (1983-88) the arrivals will increase to 436,000 and foreign exchange earnings will be 442 million dollars.

CSO: 4600/45

MUSLIM LEAGUE LEADER SAYS GOVERNMENT CANNOT TRANSFER POWER AT WILL

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Oct 83 p 8

[Text] Lahore, Oct. 4--Contrary to what Pir Pagara feels about setting up of an interim political government S. M. Zafar, Secretary General of his party has ruled out any possibility of such an arrangement in future because he opines that the government "can not hand over power to any political party under permanent or temporary arrangements."

Mr. Zafar told this correspondent today that the transfer of power could only be made through a process which would involve the nation as a whole. He warned that no political party had the mandate of sitting in the saddle without undergoing the process of soliciting people's support.

He was of the view that if the government were to take some steps whether on the advice of political parties or on its own, political tension could be defused. He said one such step would be a declaration by the government that future elections to national and provincial assemblies would be held on political parties basis and that it was willing to revise the election schedule advancing it to 1984 from 1985.

Commenting on what he called variance of opinion within the political parties Mr. Zafar observed that the present situation has touched political workers as well as leaders very deeply and all of them were concerned in their own way. He added that a coherent thinking has not emerged because of the absence of set political assignment. Political leadership was not emerging owing to the same reasons. He said: "We are all holding offices without any feed back by our grassroot organisational setup. Political thinking is always a two-way traffic and we are not having any such thinking from the lower hierarchy and all our thinking is being done at top which is sometimes inconsistent."

Another inconsistency Mr. Zafar saw in the thinking pertained to the intensity of the problem. "Solution of the present problem does not seem to be simple." He was of the opinion that even in the face of the problem the government was determined to stay. But he was concerned about the timing of finding a solution. "If the solution is not found in near future new forces will emerge and it is difficult to predict the contours of the new leadership."

CSO: 4600/45

BRIEFS

ISLAMIC ECONOMICS INSTITUTE ORDER--Rawalpindi, Oct. 3--President Ziaul Haq has issued an Ordinance here today to amend the Islamic University Ordinance, 1980 with a view to establishing International Institute of Islamic Economics. The objectives of the Institute are to organize teaching of economics, Islamic economics and related disciplines and conduct advanced studies and evaluation of Islamic economics at under-graduate, graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral levels. The Institute will also organise studies, surveys, collection of data in the field of economics and allied disciplines from the Muslim world and publish the results of this work for the larger benefit of the Ummah. The Institute will have a Chairman and a Board of Governors. The Chairman will be appointed by the Chancellor. It shall have a Director General whose appointment will be made by the Board of Governors. He will be executive and academic head of the Institute. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Oct 83 p 8]

JATOI DEMANDS HANDING OVER POWER--Karachi, Oct. 4--Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Chairman defunct PPP (Sind) has asked the government to hand over power to the judiciary by Oct. 15 so that elections could immediately be held under 1973 constitution. In a statement issued from jail Mr. Jatoi said the present regime was warned to desist from its present attitude and to take a saner course or the whole country would have to pay for it. The statement accused those who were trying to brand the present movement as a separatist. "Sind was the first to opt for Pakistan and the Muslims of the Sub-Continent followed it now it has given the lead in the struggle for democracy and I hope the whole country would follow it," he said. It may be mentioned here that Mr. Jatoi along with Khawaja Khairuddin is under detention since Aug. 15 and is lodged in the rest house of Karachi Jail. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Oct 83 p 8]

COPIES OF MAGAZINE FORFEITED--The Customs authorities have seized all the copies of the latest issue of London's monthly magazine "South". The magazine contained the cover story and a leading article on the situation in Pakistan. According to unofficial sources, the copies of the magazine have been forfeited by the Government as it contained "objectionable material." [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 4 Oct 83 p 8]